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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 77

THURSDAY APRIL 1, 2010

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OPINION METER

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Recent studies show that the scarlet gourd situation on Saipan is improving

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Doubt

Catholics are finding their ties to the church being tested by the sex abuse crisis.

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Twiggy's Back

Twiggy conquered fashion with her huge eyes, a boyish bob and long legs.

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'Gun makes Aldan case a matter of public interest' PAGE 2

Only 21 counselors for nearly 11K PSS students. PAGE 7

Froilan starts bid to permit casino gambling on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), a long-time casino proponent, introduced yesterday two bills that seek to legalize casino gambling on Saipan, a move that House Minority

Leader Diego T. Benavente said may be a hard sell on Saipan, given the defeat of the casino initiative barely three years ago.

See FROILAN on Page 4



IN A FIRST FOR THE COMMONWEALTH:

ATF to destroy 500-plus cases of illegal explosives

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Agents from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms began here yesterday an inventory of more than

500 cases of confiscated illegal explosive devices from Shanghai, China and will dispose of them on Monday.

This is the first time the ATF has come to the CNMI for a large ex-

See ATF on Page 4

Agents from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms make an inventory of illegal explosives devices from China, at a police station near the Legislative Building on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. This is the first time that the federal agency has come to the CNMI for a large explosives disposal operation.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

TODAY is Census Day!



Today, 2010 CNMI Census workers in bright yellow shirts will begin the count of all residents in the CNMI, both citizens and non-citizens alike.

The official count begins on April 1, but workers will be in the villages over the next six weeks and follow-up activities will occur until August.

CONTACT INFO
2010 CNMI Census:
288-2023/27

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and territories, including the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico and other

See CENSUS on Page 4

DUE TO STAFF RESIGNATIONS

From nine, OAG Criminal Division down to just five

»Buckingham's goal is to have 7 prosecutors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With the resignation of George Hasselback on April 5, the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division will be down to just five prosecutors.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham assured, however, that a new prosecutor is joining the division

See OAG on Page 4



Buckingham



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Local

Judge: Gun makes Aldan case a matter of public interest

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman denied yesterday

the Office of the Attorney General's oral request to withdraw a motion to set aside a plea agreement between the government and Vicente T.

Aldan, saying the case is of public interest because a gun is involved in the case.

Wiseman ordered the OAG to submit a written motion and gave attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for Aldan, a chance to oppose the motion. The judge set the hearing for April 14, 2010.

Aldan had been convicted of assault for the beating of his former wife on July 2, 2009 on Tinian. He was sentenced to six months in prison and was required under a plea agreement to surrender the gun used in the commission of the crime.

It was later found out that Aldan failed to surrender the gun, prompting assistant attorney general George Hasselback to ask the court to revoke the plea agreement.

Hasselback later sought to withdraw his request, reportedly at the instruction of Chief Prosecutor Rosemond Santos, and the matter was taken up during yesterday's hearing.

Wiseman said that Aldan's case is of public interest because an illegal gun was involved and that the weapon has yet to be surrendered.

"To say we don't do anything is against public interest," the judge said. "Remember, public

interest is the third beneficiary of a plea agreement."

Wiseman said the court feels it cannot allow the non-compliance of a plea agreement. He cited the background of the case that led him to reluctantly accept the plea agreement, since a gun was involved in that domestic violence.

"The court must protect the public's interest," Wiseman stressed.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher appeared for the government yesterday. Hasselback sat in the gallery.

Noticing this, Wiseman asked Gallagher: "Why are you here? It doesn't make sense. Why not Hasselback?"

The judge then instructed Hasselback to sit beside Gallagher at the prosecution's table.

Gallagher explained that Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham instructed him to appear. He then tried to read Buckingham's position in the case "for the record."

Wiseman, however, interrupted him and asked why he was reading Buckingham's message in which the AG was taking the defense's role.

"What authority do you have to withdraw the motion?" Wiseman asked. Gallagher replied

he is with the OAG and was instructed to do so.

Hasselback stated that since he is resigning from the OAG on April 5, he does not know what will happen to the motion to withdraw the plea agreement he filed. He suggested the appointment of a special prosecutor for this case.

Wiseman agreed, saying that

if the AG still wants to take the role of the defense, he will entertain the appointment of a special prosecutor.

In an interview after the hearing, Hasselback said he has personal reasons for quitting the OAG. "I'm taking another job at the Public School System and that's all I can say right now," he said.

Buckingham: Plea agreement in Aldan case not drafted well

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What is extraordinary about the case of defendant Vicente T. Aldan isn't familial connections but a plea agreement that wasn't drafted well, according to Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Buckingham said the plea agreement should have specified what would happen if Aldan fails to comply with the conditions of the agreement.

The plea agreement was drafted by then assistant attorney general George Hasselback.

"Our office drafted the plea agreement so we should be responsible for it, not [Aldan],"

Buckingham pointed out.

Hasselback said yesterday that Buckingham is entitled to his opinion.

Buckingham said the condition of retrieving the gun was known prior to Aldan entering the Department of Corrections' custody.

"If it was not retrieved, a motion to set aside the plea agreement should have been filed before he went into custody. Also, an extraordinary motion like this should have been reviewed, prior to filing, with the Chief Prosecutor," Buckingham said.

He said Aldan signed the plea agreement on Nov. 2, 2009, and entered the DOC as a detainee on Dec. 7, 2009—about a month later.

See **BUCKINGHAM** on Page 4

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Time	6:30pm - 9:00pm
Date	Friday, April 9th, 2010
Venue	Hyatt Regency Saipan's Garden
Dress code	Island formal

\$30.00 for Club at the Hyatt members
\$35.00 for non-members

RSVP

For information and bookings, please call 234-1234 ext. 26.
Being a cocktail event we do not take table reservations.



Malae named interim chief of CUC's water division

» Six apply for division deputy director post

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite calls of support for Bruce Megarr's re-appointment as deputy director for the water and wastewater division, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. ex-

ecutive director Tony Muña said the utility has moved on and has in fact received six applicants for the vacant post.

Megarr's two-year contract officially expired yesterday and CUC assistant director for operations Abe Utu Malae was named interim deputy director in his stead.

"I will be assuming the position of deputy director for drinking water and wastewater in the

interim until a permanent replacement is found," Malae told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Of the six applications for the deputy director job, five are from off-island while the other is Megarr himself.

Malae refused to disclose the identities of the rest of the applicants until a final selection is made but he assured that there are qualified applicants from the mainland.

"For this position, there is more to it than a list of credentials. We look for someone who has a history of getting the job done, who can build effective relationships, is mature—able to adapt to an island environment, is stable and can prevail despite the shortage of resources," Malae said.



Malae

official failed to meet the job's expectations.

Megarr earlier accused Muña of micromanaging the division, among other allegations, but Muña had denied these allegations with the *Saipan Tribune*.

"There are some decisions that need to come to my office. Yes, he makes recommendations...but

there are certain things that fall on my shoulders to make decisions on because at the end of the day, it's me who is accountable for those things," Muña said in earlier interview.

Despite their differences, Muña said the decision to let

Megarr go was based solely on professional reasons.

"CUC is not just about running the water and wastewater [division]...but more importantly ensuring power generation and distribution. The stipulated order didn't recognize the power generation crisis. It didn't allow us to solve that problem first, although that was the issue of the day in August 2008," Muña earlier explained.

CUC was first placed under a state of emergency by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in August 2008 and the declaration has been renewed every month since then as a result of noncompliance with stipulated orders and the current condition of its power, water, and wastewater systems.

New pre-sentence report filed in Calvo case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new pre-sentence investigation report for convicted sex offender Patrick Mendiola Calvo has been completed, according to assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher yesterday.

Gallagher told *Saipan Tribune* that the U.S. Probation Office finished the report and submitted it to Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja on Tuesday.

The prosecutor said he has no information yet as to when Naraja will set Calvo's sentencing.

On Jan. 12, 2010, Naraja postponed Calvo's sentencing and ordered the CNMI Adult Probation Office to conduct a new pre-sentence investigation report in conjunction with the U.S. Probation Office.

Naraja decided not to push through with the scheduled sentencing that day after Calvo's counsel, G. Anthony Long, moved to strike the entire pre-sentence investigation report prepared by the CNMI Adult Probation.

Long asserted that under the law, Chief Probation Officer Ursula Lifofoi-Aldan should

have recused herself from the pre-sentence investigation report because she has a conflict of interest, being a competitor of Calvo's business.

Long pointed out that Lifofoi-Aldan concurred with the pre-sentence investigation report submitted by probation officer Simram Simram.

Simram said Lifofoi-Aldan actually only changed some grammatical errors in his report.

Gallagher strongly objected to the motion, which according to him has no merit. He said the court could make corrections to the pre-sentence report, but not invalidate the whole thing.

The sentencing of the 47-year-old Calvo was originally set for Nov. 30, 2009. It was then moved to Dec. 7, 2009 at 10am. Before Dec. 7, Naraja re-set the sentencing to Jan. 12, 2010 as the court was then awaiting additional information from the Probation Office.

Calvo has been under house arrest while awaiting his sentencing.

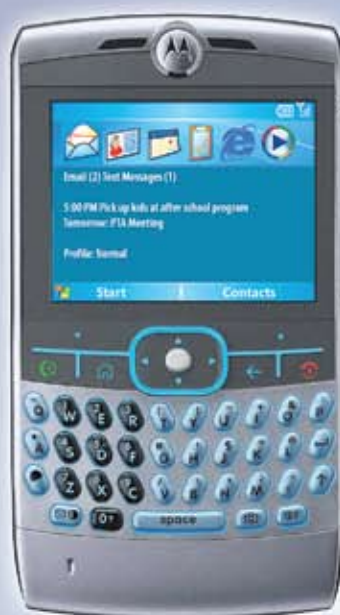
Last September, jurors found Calvo guilty of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2008. He was pronounced guilty of sexual assault in the second degree

and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

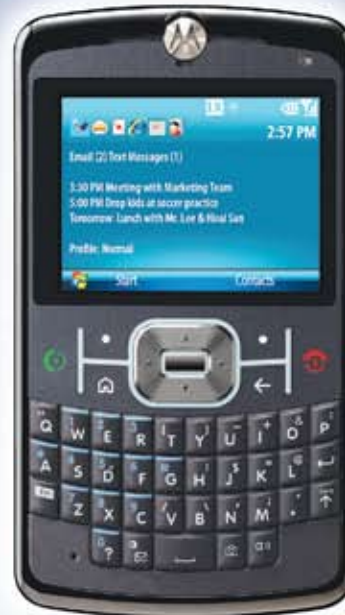
Naraja found Calvo guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and disturbing the peace.

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NOTICE TO ALL VALUED GUESTS

Please be advised that PIC Saipan will be conducting routine maintenance to the Point Break Wave Machine (Flow Rider).

The current schedule of maintenance is as follows:

Point Break Wave Machine: April 5(Mon) ~ April 25 (Sun), resume operation April 26 (Mon).

*Schedule may change due to weather conditions and any unforeseen problems.

The Lazy River will remain open during this period; however, the Tube Slide going from the Point Break down into the Lazy River will not be available. All other facilities will be in regular operation.

Thank you very much for your understanding.
PIC Management

Froilan, Stanley ask High Court to resolve LB chief issue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) submitted yesterday a certified question to the CNMI Supreme Court that they hope will determine whether or not Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes is legally holding her post even after a new Legislature was sworn into office on Jan. 11, 2010.

Tenorio believes Reyes should have automatically stepped down when the 17th Legislature came into office, but Torres disagrees with the speaker's position.

To resolve the dispute and "to end the disharmony that the issue has been causing the House, the Senate and the Legislative Bureau, Tenorio and Torres submitted yesterday an eight-page certified question to the court.

Their certified question: "Whether or not, according to the NMI Constitution Article II, Section 17(a), the Legislative Bureau director's appointment lasts indefinitely or is it subject to the appointment and official acknowledgment as a whole by the real time and current joint leadership of a new term of the Commonwealth legislature, consisting of the presiding officers, vice

presiding officers, floor leaders, and the chairman of the standing committees."

Torres is the chairman of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said the Legislature should honor Reyes's existing contract which expires on Sept. 30, 2010.

Reyes, for her part, said she is obligated by her contract to continue to work.

The impasse remains between the

House speaker and the Senate president on the issue. Because of the unresolved matter, Reyes remains at her post despite Tenorio's order to vacate her office.

Reyes' original appointment letter stated a Jan. 11, 2010 expiration date.

But some two months before the expiration of her contract, or on Nov. 12, 2009, then House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and then Sen. Frisca Pangelinan extended her contract until Sept. 30, 2010.

EMO warns of dangerous rip currents

The Emergency Management Office issued a high surf advisory yesterday, warning beachgoers to avoid venturing into waters along west facing and north facing reefs due to dangerous rip currents.

The high surf advisory will be in effect until 9am Saturday, April 3, 2010.

EMO said that high surf along west facing and north facing reefs will make maneuvering smaller vessels difficult under gusty winds, especially for inter-island voyages.

"Inexperienced mariners, particularly those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions. If navigation

is unavoidable, exercise caution, especially when entering or leaving harbors and inlets and near reef lines," said EMO.

Marines are urged to make all necessary precautions by wearing flotation gear and taking along extra food and water.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Guam, hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet are expected to peak at 12 to 14 feet today, Thursday, then subside to 9 to 10 feet by Saturday morning, particularly along north facing reefs.

Along west facing reefs, hazardous surf of 7 to 9 are projected to persist through Thursday. (EMO)

CENSUS

From Page 1

insular areas. The Census, which is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, is conducted every 10 years. The CNMI has participated in the U.S. Census since 1950.

Census data are used to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year, and to help government and community leaders make decisions about what services to provide.

"Because the CNMI population has seen many changes in the last 10 years, having a complete and accurate count is really important to our islands," said Juan Borja, Local Census Office manager. "We understand the importance of the Census in regards to the CNMI's future and we take that very seriously. We need our residents to also understand the importance of being counted so that the CNMI gets its fair share of funding."

April 1 is the date used to determine at which location a person is counted. Where a person is living and sleeping on April 1 is where the person should

be included on the Census form.

"Some people think that everyone is counted on April 1, which would be obviously be impossible to do," said Rebecca Diaz Cartagena, CNMI Census adviser. "April 1 is the first day of the U.S. Census operation and a reference date when deciding where a person is counted."

Census forms were delivered earlier this week to all U.S. Postal Service box holders. Additional forms will be distributed to private mailbox holders and be available for pickup in different locations around the island next week.

Residents can answer the CNMI Census in the privacy of their homes and turn the forms in to a Census worker when they come to one's house. "If residents fill out the form on their own, the workers can quickly verify the form is complete and be on their way," Borja said. "If residents need assistance or have not filled out the form, Census workers will complete the interview and fill out the Census form for them. It is really up to the residents if they want to save time and do it on their own."

Beginning April 6, a Telephone Assistance Center will be available to help

residents in completing their forms. Assistance is available in multiple languages and operators will enlist the help of translators when necessary. The Telephone Assistance Center number is 288-3040 and hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9am to 8:30pm; Saturday, 12pm to 8pm; and Sunday, 12pm to 6pm, except on holidays.

All Census workers will have a yellow uniform shirt with the CNMI Census logo and "Staff" on the front and back, a bag with the CNMI Census logo and picture identification.

"When a Census worker approaches the house, it is important to ask for identification. All of our staff has been instructed to introduce themselves and show their ID. If someone refuses to show their ID, please do not answer their questions and call our office immediately," Diaz Cartagena said.

All answers given to Census workers are confidential and protected by law. Census workers take an oath for 72 years and face up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine for disclosing any Census data.

For further information about the 2010 CNMI Census, call 288-2023/27. (Census)

FROILAN

From Page 1

In the Nov. 3, 2007 elections, Saipan voters who voted "no" to the Saipan casino initiative outnumbered the "yes" votes, 4,721 to 3,492. The "no" to casino prevailed in all Saipan districts.

At that time, Rota voters approved an initiative to establish a casino industry on the island.

So far, only Tinian has an existing and operating casino—the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and at least three other investors plan to build their own.

The two still unnumbered bills are the first ones that Tenorio has introduced since he became speaker of the 17th House of Representatives in

January.

Tenorio, during a session yesterday, said developing a casino industry will help grow Saipan's economy and help improve the CNMI government's services.

Tenorio's bills come at a time when the CNMI economy continues to shrink. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial revised the projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2010 from \$150 million to \$137 million as the economy continues to weaken. The governor said he will also submit a \$137 million budget ceiling for FY 2011 by today's deadline.

Benavente said the people of Saipan had already spoken against the idea of building casinos here.

"The people of Saipan have already spoken against it," he said.

The speaker's office has yet to re-

lease to the media copies of his two casino bills.

As of late yesterday afternoon, the House clerk was still reviewing the bills.

A copy of one of Tenorio's draft bills obtained by *Saipan Tribune* seeks to "provide for the regulation and control of the operation of gambling enterprises in the Municipality of Saipan."

Tenorio's draft "Saipan Casino Control Act," which is 40 pages long, imposes an annual 10 percent tax on the gross revenue of casinos and operators of remote games (games offered for play via the Internet, telephone, or other telecommunications technology). This is on top of any other taxes imposed.

It said funds collected or included in a revenue estimate of the governor and

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 2

Buckingham said one could not expect Aldan to retrieve the weapon while he is locked up.

"So one would assume the weapon would be retrieved before Dec. 7, 2009. The motion to set aside the plea agreement was filed in court on March 2, 2009—nearly four months after the defendant began serving a six-month sentence," the AG said.

He added that the motion to set aside did not ask the court to put the defendant back into a "pre-plea" status.

"In other words, if we are going to set aside a plea, this should mean we would be treating the defendant the same as anyone who has not been con-

victed of a crime. Presumed innocent and certainly not in custody. Here, the defendant was in custody while the motion was filed," Buckingham said.

When asked if the government intends to file a probation revocation, he said it is not appropriate for him to comment on what they may do in the future.

"But I would say there are conditions that have not been met. These will and should be disclosed to the court. It will be up to the court to decide whether further action should be taken under the existing plea agreement," Buckingham said.

Buckingham earlier admitted that Dolores Aldan asked him on behalf of her husband to review his case, but the AG stressed there was no special treatment or consideration made.

ATF

From Page 1

plosives disposal operation, after the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Customs Services brought the matter to the federal agency's attention.

Special agent Cheryl D. Bishop, ATF public information officer, said the hazardous materials to be disposed of include cases of 1.4G and 1.3G commercial explosives.

"The problem is they came in without some of the proper labeling that's required by both the Department of Transportation, as well as the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and they are also mislabeled. Some of the devices in there are much more powerful than what they should be. That makes them hazardous, as well as a little unstable," Bishop told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday afternoon.

ATF agents were at a DPS station near the Legislative Building on Capital Hill

yesterday doing an inventory, among other things, of the hazardous products.

Bishop said 14 to 15 ATF agents from Washington, D.C. and other states, including explosives specialists from the bureau's Explosives Technology Branch, are on island for the operation. The group also has people helping with the inventory.

"Simply put, our number one reason why we're here is to safely dispose of hazardous products. Right now, we're looking at over 500 cases. And a case weighs anywhere from 50 to 75 lbs, depending on what product is in the case. It's a large quantity when you're talking commercial grade fireworks," Bishop said.

ATF, however, is mum about the businesses or entities that brought these hazardous products to the CNMI.

"That's an open case. That hasn't been addressed so we can't comment on it," she said.

The explosives disposal will be held Monday.

OAG

From Page 1

within the next several weeks.

He said it is their goal to have at least six prosecutors, in addition to the chief prosecutor.

Once Hasselback leaves on Monday, the Criminal Division will just have Chief Prosecutor Rosemond Santos and assistant attorneys general Jennifer Dockter, Brian Gallagher, Michael Evangelista, and William "Sonny" Downer.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Buckingham said a new prosecutor, Shelli Neal, will be arriving soon.

"We will be working to fill the re-

maining single vacancy," he added.

The exodus began last year when Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch stepped down. At that time, Hasselback was named acting chief prosecutor.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Meyer followed, moving out of the OAG Criminal Division to be the Senate legal counsel.

Former deputy attorney general Gregory Baka resigned on Jan. 4, 2010, and he and his family moved to the U.S. mainland.

Assistant attorney general Katie Busenkell recently resigned, soon after Buckingham pulled out her boyfriend, special attorney general Joseph Przyuski, from the Criminal Division. Przyuski is now with the Office of the Public Auditor.

for health and welfare programs.

Other appropriations are to be directed to programs benefiting Saipan people, including medical referrals, scholarships, youth services and programs, housing, small business loans, and health and welfare programs.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), when asked for comment, said one of the bills he has read gives 10 percent of the casino revenues to Rota and Tinian.

"Just by reading the first few pages and how it will benefit not only Saipan but also Tinian and Rota even if they already have their own casinos, I decided to support the bill," said Torres.

The defeat of the Saipan casino initiative in 2007 did not stop lawmakers from introducing casino bills throughout the years.

NMC vows to protect Fernandez's rights

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will not release public statements about the upcoming hearing of Dr. Carmen Fernandez to make sure that the rights of the suspended president are protected and preserved, according to NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera.

In a statement issued yesterday, Cabrera stated they want to preserve Dr. Fernandez's right

to privacy and the integrity of the hearing procedure.

Cabrera was responding to a *Saipan Tribune* inquiry whether Fernandez has already confirmed her attendance at the April 5, 2010 hearing.

Saipan Tribune first directed the question to NMC Board of Regents chair Janet H. King but she routed the question to the office of the interim president.

The embattled Fernandez has been suspended since Jan. 12 because of numerous allegations

that she changed the grades of some students and improperly approved personnel contracts at the college during her term.

Both the Attorney General's Office and NMC's internal legal counsel, the Guam-based law firm Cabot Montanana, have already submitted their findings on these allegations to the board.

On March 24, regents voted to call Fernandez to a hearing on April 5, 2010, at 2:30pm.

Regent Andrew Orsini, who chairs the board's personnel

committee, said a letter was sent to Fernandez that same day but he was not informed whether Fernandez has confirmed her attendance.

Orsini earlier said the findings of the two investigating teams showed "similar" results but he refused to elaborate when pressed.

Meantime, Cabrera affirmed that NMC legal counsel Jesse Borja continues to provide legal guidance and advice to the college in several capacities.

2 suspected 'ice' suppliers arrested

Members of the Department of Public Safety's Joint Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested yesterday two persons allegedly involved in selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

DPS spokesman Eric F. David said Yu Shuang Zhao and Zheng Feng Lin were arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a con-

trolled substance.

David said about 5 grams of "ice" valued at \$2,000 and

\$970 in cash were seized from the two.

David said task force members, using an undercover officer, were able to purchase \$200 worth of "ice" from Zhao on Tuesday.

Using the same undercover officer, DETF members were able to buy \$800 worth of "ice" from Zhao and Lin yesterday. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Zhao



Lin

Memorial Day Committee to meet next week

The 2010 Memorial Day Committee will begin to meet every Wednesday at 9am at the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs on Capitol Hill, starting April 7, 2010, to prepare for the upcoming Memorial Day on May 31.

The public is invited to attend

the meetings, which are designed to organize the activities, entertainment, guest speaker(s), and help promote the celebration of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is when tribute and remembrance is paid to the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we

may enjoy the fruits of the freedom we love.

For more information, contact executive officer Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs by phone at 664-2650 or by e-mail at ruthcoleman2003@yahoo.com. (*Walter J. Sutherland*)



Easter Sunday Brunch

Sunday, April 4, 2010
at Minami Restaurant
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

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'There will be no inmate abuse under my watch'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Corrections Commissioner Ramon "Ray" C. Mafnas told senators yesterday that he is ready and able to provide the leadership needed to further improve the Department of Corrections, which he said is now at a "dangerous" staffing level with "less than 100" personnel.

Mafnas, who previously served as acting commissioner for both Corrections and the Department of Public Safety, also vowed to protect the dignity and privacy of inmates.

"There will be no inmate abuse under my watch," he told members of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chaired by Sen. Francisco Q.

Cruz (R-Tinian).

The committee held a public hearing on Mafnas's appointment as Corrections chief, held in the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill.

A total of 20 government officials, employees and private citizens testified in support of Mafnas's appointment, and all of them urged the committee to recommend Mafnas's confirmation to the whole Senate.

No one testified against his appointment.

Not one of the senators present asked whether Mafnas would have allowed an inmate to be released in the early morning hours to give the governor a massage therapy.

"I would have never allowed the release," he later told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he wouldn't have allowed it, even if it's the governor who asked for the release.

But Mafnas said "the governor did not request for that. I don't believe the governor requested for it, specifically for the release. If any release were to be

furor that some in the community labeled "massage-gate."

'Protecting inmates' dignity'

Mafnas, in his testimony before the Senate EAGI Committee, said during his previous term as acting Corrections commissioner and up to now, he has instituted measures to protect the dignity and privacy of inmates.

He restricted official tours and visits to cell blocks and housing units where there are no inmates.

"The DOC is not a zoo," he told senators during the hearing.

Mafnas went on to say that he chooses to respect the dignity of inmates and would like to instill or continue that sense of humanity within the Department of Corrections.

'Dangerous staffing level'

» Mafnas says he wouldn't have released 'massage-gate' inmate
» Corrections at a 'dangerous' staffing level of under 100

done, it has to be done properly, through the proper processes."

Federal detainee Qingmei Cheng, whom Fitial had described as his best massage therapist, was brought out of her cell and escorted to Fitial's house to massage his aching back on Jan. 8 without prior federal authorization. The incident created a

Mafnas said the Department of Corrections has reached the point where it is now under dangerous staffing level because it only has "fewer than 100" employees.

He said for safety and security reason, he won't be able to disclose the exact number but said DOC will be able to hire additional staff.

The \$20.9 million prison complex in Susupe has a fluctuating inmate count of 116 to 150 but has a maximum capacity of 586.

During the public hearing, Mafnas said the CNMI can generate more revenue and be able to use to full capacity the existing prison complex if there are more federal inmates housed in it. He said some federal inmates in Guam may also be transferred to the CNMI.

He said whether the prison accommodates 150 or 500 inmates, it has to run the utilities, which are a major expense.

Sen. Joe Ayuyu (R-Rota) asked whether Rota and Tinian prisons can be improved to meet federal standards, to which Mafnas said "it's doable," depending on the funding and staffing that can be acquired.

Mafnas also talked about the

ongoing negotiations with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the latter's proposed use of the \$20.9-million prison complex in Susupe.

He said the CNMI is also seeking readjustment of the \$77 per inmate rate under an existing agreement with the U.S. Marshals Service.

"The benefits will be for both the CNMI and the federal government," he said.

The CNMI earns some \$500,000 annually by providing escort service, guard service and for housing federal inmates at the prison complex under the existing Inter-Government Service Agreement with the U.S. Marshals Service.

The 20 individuals who urged senators to confirm Mafnas spoke of his ability to lead DOC, his professional qualifications, loyalty, his dedication, hard work, passion and commitment to serve the CNMI.

"He gets the job done," former Public Lands secretary John S. DelRosario said.

The Senate session is set for April 8, and the EAGI Committee is expected to make its recommendation whether or not to confirm Mafnas.



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ITB10-WIA-083**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 20, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ EDITH DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WIA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-OVR-085**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 20, 2010 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

**"INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"**

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, NAVY HILL, SAIPAN AT 10:00 A.M., APRIL 09, 2010. PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS ORIENTATION.

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FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT IS PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA).

/s/ MARGARITA OLOPAI-TAITANO
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-086**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 20, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

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A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 06, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM (Rm. 205). QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT raymasga@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 09, 2010.

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/s/ FRANK M. RABULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Only 21 counselors for nearly 11K students in public schools

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has only 21 counselors for nearly 11,000 schoolchildren in 20 campuses on three islands, according to a Human Resources Office report presented to the Fiscal and Personnel Affairs Committee last week.

This translates to a ratio of about one counselor for every 500 students.

The American School Counselors Association recommends an ideal ratio of 250 students for every school counselor. The association admitted, though, that many states and territories have larger ratios.

Of the 21 school counselors at PSS, 13—or 62 percent—are classified as highly qualified, having met all requirements for the position. The remaining eight are in the process of meeting all the requirements.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the 13 highly qualified counselors, eight have bachelor's degrees while five have master's degrees.

Among the non-HQC, six have bachelor's degrees while two have master's degrees.

Charlotte Camacho, PSS elementary school principals' representative, admitted yesterday that there is a critical need to

employ more counselors to meet the needs of all public school students on three islands.

PSS, she said, aims to have one school counselor for every 300 students. This goal has yet to be accomplished due to the lack of qualified individuals.

Camacho, who is the principal in Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, said she's lucky to have one counselor for her school, which currently has over 300 students.

More counselors are needed, she said, for bigger schools such as the San Vicente, Garapan, and William S. Reyes elementary schools, including middle and high schools.

"School counselors play an important role for our students. They serve as the lifeline of our schools because they not only help our kids excel academically, but they make sure that the children are physically, emotionally, and socially well," Camacho said.

The meager budget the local government allocates public schools has also hindered previous efforts to hire more counselors.

This school year, the federal government allowed the use of a portion of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to restore several positions at PSS, among them the school counselor positions.

Non-certified PSS counselors are paid an annual salary of \$27,911 if they have a bachelor's degree and have taken either Praxis 1 or 2 before July 2006; those who have a mas-

ter's degree or higher and have taken both Praxis test are paid \$28,884.

Counselors with a master's degree or higher, a valid Basic 1 certificate, and have passed both

Praxis tests are paid \$33,289 annually if they have up to two years experience in public schools.

The maximum salary a counselor can get is \$47,000 per annum. That's if they have al-

ready obtained a professional certificate with endorsement, a master's degree or higher, and more than 10 years of experience. They must also pass the Praxis tests.

Zoning workshop welcomes public feedback

By **WALTER J. SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Board met with local surveyors and new business developers yesterday to promote awareness of the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. The public was also invited to present recommendations and concerns expressed by the community, private sector, and the Legislature.

"The purpose of the meeting is to hear the community's issues and concerns. We appreciate all of the comments and recommendations. We welcome the feedback and will take it all into consideration for possible future revisions and updates to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law," said Zoning Board chair Herminia M. Fusco.

During the workshop, mostly technical comments were raised about subdivisions, specifically parental subdivisions. Some participants in the workshop were hesitant to accept the Zoning Office's role regarding parental subdivisions.

Comments and questions were raised about lot sizes, mapping specifications, road accessibility specifications, zoning fees, and other parental subdivision issues of concern.

Some who were present at the workshop proposed that parental subdivisions be grandfathered in to enable a more attainable approval rate through zoning.

Some surveyors also expressed concerns about the difficulties of simultaneously

complying with multiple government agencies at once, including zoning.

"With so many comments being so technical, we will compile them and turn them over to the board for final review," said Therese Ogomoro, acting Zoning administrator.

The Zoning Office will offer more workshops on April 7 and 14. Engineers and architects will meet next Wednesday, April 7, from 9am to 10am.

Adult businesses will also be meeting on April 7 in the afternoon, from 2pm to 3pm. Government agencies will meet on April 14, from 2pm to 3pm. All meetings are held at the Zoning Office conference room on the second floor of the Joeten Building in Dandan. Anyone with questions about the public meetings may contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or by e-mail at staff@zoning.gov.mp.



PLAYFUL

"Tasha," a Bengal tiger, approaches the fence of her cage at the Saipan Zoo in As Mahetog on Tuesday afternoon. The CNMI's only zoo usually sees a spike in visitor traffic towards the end of school when educational trips are usually held, although tourists are a regular client.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sobriety checkpoint on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting a sobriety checkpoint on Rota on Sunday, April 4, 2010.

It will be held along San Francisco Highway Tatgua by the Mesa residence, from 4:30pm to 5:45pm.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protect-

ed. Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

Police officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sergeant Jarrod T. Manglona or Officer Tito S. Hocog at 532-9433. (DPS)

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PSS to scout US mainland for teachers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has approved sending representatives to various career fairs in the U.S. mainland this spring due to a large number of personnel that will need to be replaced this coming school year.

Saipan Tribune learned that 16 travel requests were approved for this purpose.

PSS will send a recruitment team led by HRO director Charlie Kenty to the Oregon State Professional Educator's Fair in Portland on April 6-7. He will be accompanied by Saipan Southern High School principal Craig Garrison, newly hired special education specialist Donna Moore Flores, and HR personnel specialist Conrad Reyes. The group will be off-island from April 5 to 10.

The team will look for highly qualified teachers in the areas of English, language arts, Earth and space sciences, math, and special education—all deemed hard-to-fill positions.

A two-member recruitment team—Coreen Palacios of HR and Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas—is also scheduled to attend the Annual Washington Educators Career Fair in Tacoma on April 15.

On April 19, four PSS representatives will fly to Minneapolis for the Minnesota State Educators' Recruitment Fair to scout for highly qualified teachers for hard-to-fill positions, especially in the secondary level.

Saipan Tribune learned that this team will be composed of Kenty and principals Karen Borja, Maria Quitugua, and Lielzel Amirez.

Kenty, Borja and Quitugua will also be attending the North Dakota Education Connection Educators' Fair on April 21.

Saipan Tribune learned that Kenty, along with Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada, represented PSS at the Washington Educator Career Fair last March 16.

Tinian High School principal Julian Hofschneider was also accorded the opportunity to scout for needed teachers, counselors, and other staff at the Western Oregon University Career Fair on March 29.

Kenty said that PSS successfully hired about 50 personnel from the U.S. mainland last year.

He pointed out that, of the 105 positions approved for funding under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, only nearly half have been filled.

PSS has over a thousand locally and federally funded employees. Of this number, 571 are classroom teachers, with 408—or 71 percent—deemed highly qualified. The rest are in the process of completing the requirements.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 1, 1999

Governor hands off NMC

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College will have a free hand in choosing the next leader for the Commonwealth's only higher learning institution following the retirement of President Agnes McPhetres in December. This assurance came from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who said that an official announcement will soon be published to invite candidates for the position. "I want to stress that the decision will come from the Board," he said. The governor yesterday proclaimed April as NMC Month and commended the board for leading the second reorganization to ensure business as usual in its daily operations.

Borrowers on track with home payments

Hundreds of beneficiaries of the government housing program still manage to meet their monthly mortgage despite the current economic crisis that has forced layoff and cut back in working hours in the private sector and in some CNMI agencies. The delinquency rate among home loan borrowers hovers around three percent which is low compared to commercial loans granted by the government lending agency, according to Marylou S. Ada, corporate director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. She said most families on the island have prioritized housing to make sure they meet their financial obligations to their creditors before spending their income for other household needs.

April 1, 2002

New panel eyed to help Tinian tourism

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed plans to create a task force that would promote and market Tinian as a tourist destination, in anticipation of the entry of direct flights akin to the scheduled completion of the West Tinian Airport project. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the ports authority is urging the island's local government to consider appointing representatives from the private sector and the ports authority to complete the Tinian tourism task force. Palacios explained that, in preparation for the completion of the airport project in September 2002, the Tinian local government is prioritizing the need to market the island as a casino and gaming destination.

HMO equates to NMI savings

Since signing a contract with the Group Health and Life Insurance in September last year as its third-party administrator, the Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral has managed to save the government's insurance arm about \$1.604 million in discounts and ineligible charges. Although he refused to furnish the media a copy of the report pending submission to the NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees, HPMR president and chief executive officer Arnold M. Baptiste said that, since September 1 to March 31, his company processed a total of \$2.402 million in on-island and off-island medical claims. Of that amount, \$745,000 were found to be ineligible charges, which were then subtracted from the total charges.

April 1, 2003

Proposal seeks flexible date for local polls

With the intent of increasing voter turnout, Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give the governor and the Legislature flexibility to reset the date of the regular general election, in the face of an emergency or other extenuating circumstances. Article VIII § 1 and 4 of the CNMI Constitution provide for the regular general election to be held on the first Saturday in November. According to Guerrero, this provision is "too rigid and inflexible" in that it does not allow for a postponement of the election should unforeseeable events or conflicts occur.

Babauta to sign agreement with PSS for additional \$1M in budget

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is pushing for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public School System following his decision to raise PSS' local funding to \$38.3 million—an increase of slightly over \$1 million from a previously approved budget for the system for fiscal year 2004. In a draft MOU, which was discussed and approved by the BOE committee on fiscal, personnel, and administration yesterday, Babauta specified that the additional budget would be used to increase the salaries of eligible PSS teachers and provide incentives to eligible early childhood teachers or those teaching kindergarten through third grade.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



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Interested parties may pick-up the bid package & the detailed specification at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-10-017, CUC Water Facilities Upgrade/ Replacement of Transformers, Saipan," to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than April, 05, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened. Late submissions will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries should be directed to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email: msablan@cucgov.net and John Ed Onedera, CUC Power Division Engineer at email: johno@cucgov.net

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR
Legal Counsel

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 77Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Seizing Karzai's attention

President Barack Obama's surprise trip to Afghanistan on Sunday proved doubly surprising for the direct tone he took with his Afghan counterpart about the need to address rampant corruption.

Afghanistan remains in a state of high fragility in large part because President Hamid Karzai has failed to clean up the bribery and drug-related corruption riddling his government. Obama's message was diplomatic but unequivocal: Clean it up. Now.

Obama's national security adviser, Gen. James L. Jones, told reporters on the trip that Karzai "needs to be seized with how important" the corruption issue is. As understatement goes, that's a doozy.

Corruption has dogged Karzai's government from the day he took power in December 2001. The warlords whose military might provided the muscle behind his rule demanded unfettered plundering of government coffers as their compensation. The United States, which badly needed Karzai's voice of moderation to tamp down his country's radical tendencies, largely remained silent as corruption flourished. A growing opium trade made matters worse.

American silence was fine as long as al-Qaeda and the Taliban were on the run. Today, the Taliban is resurgent, owing no small part of its popularity to its anti-corruption message. For Karzai's government to recruit and train 240,000 troops and police by year's end, as set forth under Obama's war plan, the Afghan president must show his people that their sacrifices won't simply enrich a powerful few. Karzai's inability to extend central government rule beyond the capital, Kabul, underscores his need to regain his country's trust and confidence.

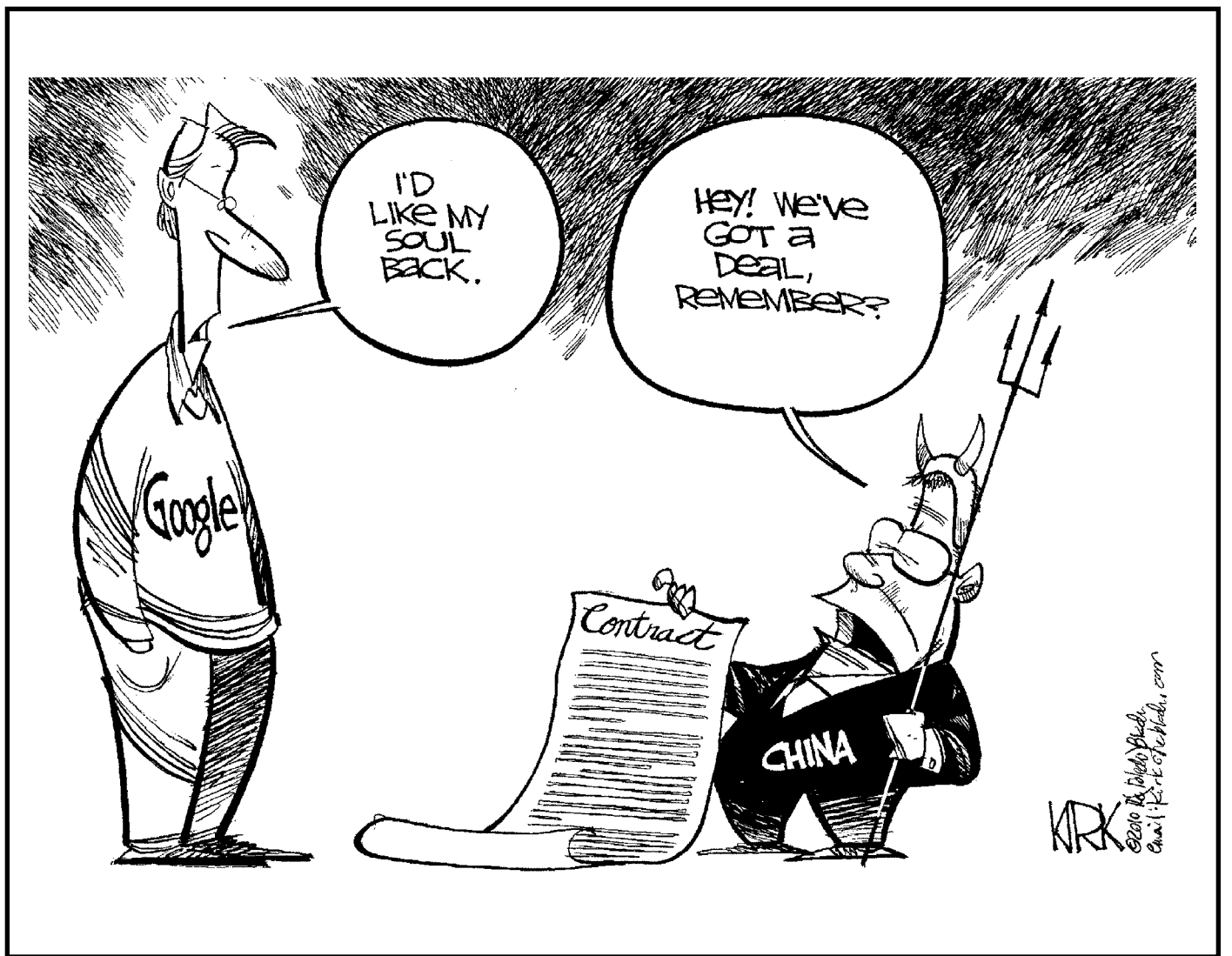
That failure resonates all the way back to Texas. Troops from this state have formed the backbone of the fighting forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan. When Karzai fails at his job, U.S. troops feel the pain directly through prolonged, multiple deployments and increased exposure to danger.

For American troops there, Obama's trip was a much-needed morale boost, showing that the distractions of the health care reform debate have not swayed his military resolve.

While much of America's attention was focused on domestic issues, U.S. and other NATO troops launched their largest combined offensive to push the Taliban into retreat from the central city of Marjah. The next step will be significantly more challenging: Drive the Taliban out of their declared capital in Kandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city. This offensive promises to be long, bloody and a major test of Obama's resolve.

Since Obama has declared Afghanistan to be his war, the corruption problem is his to solve along with winning a war that, in recent years, has gone from bad to worse for the U.S. and Afghan governments. Sunday's trip marked a new level of welcomed activism by Obama to keep Karzai's attention focused on the mission at hand.

(c) 2010, The Dallas Morning News



What if Iran gets the bomb?

“It is not this calendar year” that the world will face a nuclear-capable Iran, Army Gen. David H. Petraeus told a Senate committee last week. He was being conservative: Most experts now estimate that Iran needs about 18 months to complete a nuclear device and a missile to carry it.

Iran's march toward nuclear weapons has been slowed by several factors: technical bottlenecks, the exposure of secret facilities and equipment breakdowns (sometimes thanks to flaws baked into equipment by Western intelligence agencies).

But progress toward the bomb hasn't been stopped—not by sanctions, negotiations or domestic unrest.

The Obama administration's goal is still to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. But like many of the president's worthy aspirations, this one may be unattainable. The administration is working diligently on stepped-up economic sanctions against Iran, but even the proponents of that approach don't promise immediate results. And the option of a military strike against Iran faces strong opposition from an important constituency: the U.S. military, which doesn't relish adding a third war to the two it's already fighting. As Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates never tires of pointing out, a military strike wouldn't prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons; it would merely postpone it.

That's why national security thinkers from both parties are talking more openly about what happens next: what to do when the Iranians get a nuclear weapon.

An Iran with one or two nuclear bombs is a very bad thing, their reasoning goes, but it's not the end of the world. As Israel's defense minister, Ehud Barak, put it last month: “I don't think that the Iranians, even if they got the bomb, are going to drop it immediately on some neighbor. They fully understand what might follow. They are radicals but not total meshugenehs” (Yiddish for “nut cases”). He went on to say that a nuclear Iran would be “unacceptable” because it would strengthen the Tehran regime as a regional power and increase the danger of nuclear proliferation—but the Israelis are also thinking about what to do if the “unacceptable” happens.

Hawks, including former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, argue that military action is the only remaining option. But a growing chorus that includes former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, are warning against a military strike on Iran by either the United States or Israel. A military strike, they say, would create chaos and strengthen its hard-line regime. And it wouldn't stop Tehran from eventually acquiring a nuclear weapon.

As Bruce Riedel, a 29-year veteran of the CIA who directed the Obama administration's initial review of U.S. policy in Afghanistan, put it to me last week: “Bombing Iran is a truly bad option.”

Even a surgical airstrike against Iran's nuclear installations, he

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



warned, would touch off a much wider conflagration around the Persian Gulf and beyond. “It's not a war the United States needs right now,” he said. “It would be disastrous to the wars we're already in (in Afghanistan and Iraq), and it would lead to a fourth war, one between Iran and Israel.”

So what should we do instead? At the same time the U.S. tries to prevent Iran from getting the bomb, it should also turn to an option it has long experience with: containment. That doesn't mean passively accepting a nuclear Iran. Instead, it means working on several fronts to deprive Iran of any advantage it hopes to gain from possessing nuclear weapons.

It means escalating sanctions on Iran to increase the cost of owning nuclear weapons. It means providing a more explicit American defense umbrella to Israel, Saudi Arabia and other countries that Iran might threaten. It means a more active U.S. role in the region—presumably the opposite of Iran's desires. And it means a continued demand on Iran to freeze and eventually reverse its nuclear program, even if it produces actual weapons.

In fact, even though the Obama administration isn't ready to accept that Iran will become a nuclear power, it is already doing all those things—and laying a foundation for containment.

Riedel makes one more provocative point: He argues that President Obama should actually take the military option off the table and forswear any intention of attacking Iran—because, in his view, it gets in the way of an effective containment policy. “It makes it harder for a lot of other countries to come on board,” he said.

But Obama and his aides, after vowing repeatedly to keep the military option on the table, are unlikely to agree.

The most important thing is this: Obama shouldn't allow himself to be boxed in by past formulas. If Gates is right that a military attack on Iran is a bad idea, the time to begin talking about alternatives is now.

In 2003, the United States went to war in Iraq without a thorough debate of the alternative—which was containment. Then, as now, hawks argued that military action was the only remaining option. This time, before another rush to war, that claim should be put to a more exacting test.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Leapfrog your way to success

Make your life a masterpiece by taking the 60 Day Challenge. You are the artist that can create any life you want by setting and achieving worthwhile goals. Each week until May 20th this column will share ideas and stories to help motivate you toward your objectives. If you'd like a form to help you write your goals, you can email us at biz_results@yahoo.com.

When we were children, we used to play a game called leapfrog. This is where the other children stand in a line, bend over, and rest their hands on their knees while the "frog" places his hands on the back of the person in front of him and leaps over by straddling his legs wide apart to land on the other side. The child continues leapfrogging over the backs of the others until he is at the front of the group. It's now the turn of the kid at the end of the line to leapfrog forward. It's interesting that this same child's game is called "leapsheep" in France and "horseleap" in Japan.

Some have the philosophy that progress must come in small incremental steps, and that it takes hard work to climb each rung of the success ladder. Some have done well in their lifetime using this philosophy; however, a few seem to leapfrog past others on the ladder of success, and accomplish much more and with less effort. However, the majority of people seem to be stuck in their career, business, relationships, and personal progress.

There's a story of a large truck that was too high, getting stuck going under an overpass road. After several hours, police called in engineers and other experts to determine how they could get the truck unstuck. They considered using jacks to lift the bridge slightly so the truck could be pulled out. A young boy came up to a policeman and simply asked: "Why don't you just let the air out of the tires?"

'Repeal and replace'

Political posturing and gamesmanship notwithstanding, recent showdowns across partisan lines, both in the U.S. Congress over the ongoing healthcare debacle and in our local Legislature with the passage of an "austerity" measure in the lower house, pose an interesting study in the fundamental, philosophical differences between conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats. More importantly, at this fragile juncture in our respective histories both as a nation and as a Commonwealth—a time wrought with sense of panic and general uncertainty about our economic futures—party politics have, in fact, awakened the American consciousness that maybe *something is rotten in the state of (our great nation)*. So, what's new and why so much ado?

First off, any further debate on federal health care reform, especially from where I stand on our little speck of the world, really would be an exercise in futility. I have neither the prowess nor the will to open that can of worms. I do, however, feel compelled to facilitate continued discussion about local House Bill 17-45, the Pay Reduction Act of 2010. I note with great interest that all, save one, of the Republican caucus in the House voted against the measure and I applaud, albeit silently, those that did. I suspect that the author of this bill is well-intentioned and he, along with those that voted in favor, are doing what they think is best for our community, so this is not intended to be an assault on those persons, but rather to respectfully disagree and to offer my views on the matter.

With all due respect, I find the bill flawed both on face value and on general principle. For starters, any cuts to employee salaries paid via federal grants will not translate to a savings for the CNMI government's general fund. Said funds may not be co-mingled and we

cannot receive federal funding for one purpose and subsequently divert it to another. Actually, strike that; it wouldn't be the first time that federal funds get misappropriated, so we know the powers-that-be can do it, but it does put our federal funds at risk. At best, we'll end up with a surplus of restricted federal funds subject to revocation by the granting agencies. Where is the good in that? Wouldn't it better to have those funds churning in our local economy rather than being held up in some make-believe savings account?

Additionally, and let's take the Special Education program as an example, cutting the working hours of Special Education staff poses an immediate threat to the program in terms of its funding, but more importantly in terms of the mandated services for students with disabilities. The proposed pay cuts will have a direct, negative impact on our population of students with disabilities because the SPED program is funded wholly or in major part through federal funds. While I'm on the topic of students, any assertion that teachers do not actually work full days and therefore should take the pay cut is completely off base. Find me a teacher who works less and I'll find you someone who shouldn't be teaching. At present, the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. has fielded several calls about the possibility of pursuing injunctions and other court actions to preserve the already scant services available to our children with disabilities should this law be enacted.

What bothers me most about this bill, and I suppose this will take me back to some basic Right versus Left wing ideologies, is a clause neatly tucked in the third page of the bill which reads, "If this law is enacted, the governor is requested to rescind notices of furlough issued to employees of the executive branch on February, or there-

after." For emphasis, the Act will reduce the number of hours for those currently employed and bring back anyone who had previously been laid off.

For reasons including but not limited to those stated above, it appears that this Act may, when all is said and done, have the net effect of employing more people in government, jeopardizing our federal funds and stifling our disability-related programs for little to no actual savings at all. Ultimately, in typical liberal fashion, it's more about the government distributing wealth rather than generating it. And, like the federal legislation on health care reform, it reeks of the ever-growing, socialist sentimentality that plagues our stability and our fortitude as an American people. Pray, my fellow citizens, that we can see fit to repeal and replace "to enact or not to enact, that is the question."

For more on disability-related programs in the CNMI or on the rights of individuals with disabilities, please feel free to contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice], 235-7275 [fax], 235-7278 [tty] or check us out online at www.nmpasi.com.

My question: If the umbrella permits were revoked this March 2010, it is not even four months yet, counting from November 2009. Pretending you have the authority to revoke the permit, your mathematics is poor. The sixth month after November 2009 is May 2010. Pretending again that you didn't miscalculate, did all 200 umbrella permit holders commit criminal offenses? Does DOC have a record?

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By **RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



a "lucky break" and they were ready to take advantage of it. Often they had an adviser or mentor who put them on the fast track to exponential growth, or introduced them to people who could help leapfrog their success.

As you learn more about successful people through talking to them or reading about them, you will find that they fail more than unsuccessful people. However, they learn from their mistakes and use that knowledge to pick themselves up and try a better strategy that gives them a competitive advantage. The average person quits when the going gets tough, and they never experience the breakthroughs that often come with persistent effort. Automobile magnate Henry Ford said, "Failure is merely an opportunity to more intelligently begin again."

When you use the leapfrog strategy, you create a breakthrough situation without having to go through the intermediary steps yourself. You exceed the typical expectations of others and achieve your goals much faster, and on a scale that may have seemed practically impossible. Look at your goals, and ask what you could do to leapfrog ahead and achieve them faster than what you previously thought possible.

By **JIM RAYPHAND**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc.



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Letter to the Editor

Contradictions at Labor

Ms. Deanne Siemer: You have known me to be frank and outspoken. I have these observations and questions but I don't want to address issues to Cinta Kaipat anymore because...

1) During the PIC forum hosted by SHRM last March 19, 2010, the AG handed to attendees (I was one of them) thread of e-mails. One e-mail came from ICE, requesting the CNMI-DOL (addressed actually to Jeff Camacho) to revoke the permit of a holder due to a criminal offense. Jeff Camacho sent you an e-mail stating "Boss, _____ (this line was erased/covered with black marker).... What do you think? ICE is asking US to revoke his permit. But Ms. Brown is saying that our permit can't be revoked. HELP!" (Mind you, the word "help" was capitalized! Looks like he really needed a BIG help)

My question: If Cinta Kaipat is the Deputy Secretary, why did Jeff Camacho ask for your help instead of Kaipat? Why are you being called "Boss"? Is our assumption correct, that you are the one manipulating the CNMI-DOL? How come they keep saying they

will revoke the umbrella permit when this e-mail clearly shows the CNMI-DOL doesn't even know *when* and *under what* circumstances they can actually revoke?

2) Cinta Kipat said there were about 200 umbrella permits that had been revoked and were already referred to ICE. Really? On what grounds? Then how about this statement from her (but I think this statement came from you): "If a worker has not found employment for 6 months, the likelihood of locating employment in the future is very low and we are not required to allow that person to keep a permit over the long term."

My question: If the umbrella permits were revoked this March 2010, it is not even four months yet, counting from November 2009. Pretending you have the authority to revoke the permit, your mathematics is poor. The sixth month after November 2009 is May 2010. Pretending again that you didn't miscalculate, did all 200 umbrella permit holders commit criminal offenses? Does DOC have a record?

3) The way the feds consider the umbrella permit is actually similar to what you were offering to us last Nov. 20 and 27, 2009: The "service provider" category. (Don't tell me you *can't* offer anything because you are a volunteer. The CNMI-DOL is relying on your *help* and you are called Boss). You are aware that I strongly disagreed with this because we knew you cannot issue permits anymore and besides, accepting this would restrict our freedom of speech, press and assembly.






My question: Why does the CNMI DOL disagree with the feds, now that the feds are saying that umbrella permit holders can work "freely" until 2011, which is similar to the free labor market you were offering with the "service provider"? Is it because guest workers are no longer under the control of CNMI DOL?

Malou H. Berueco
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

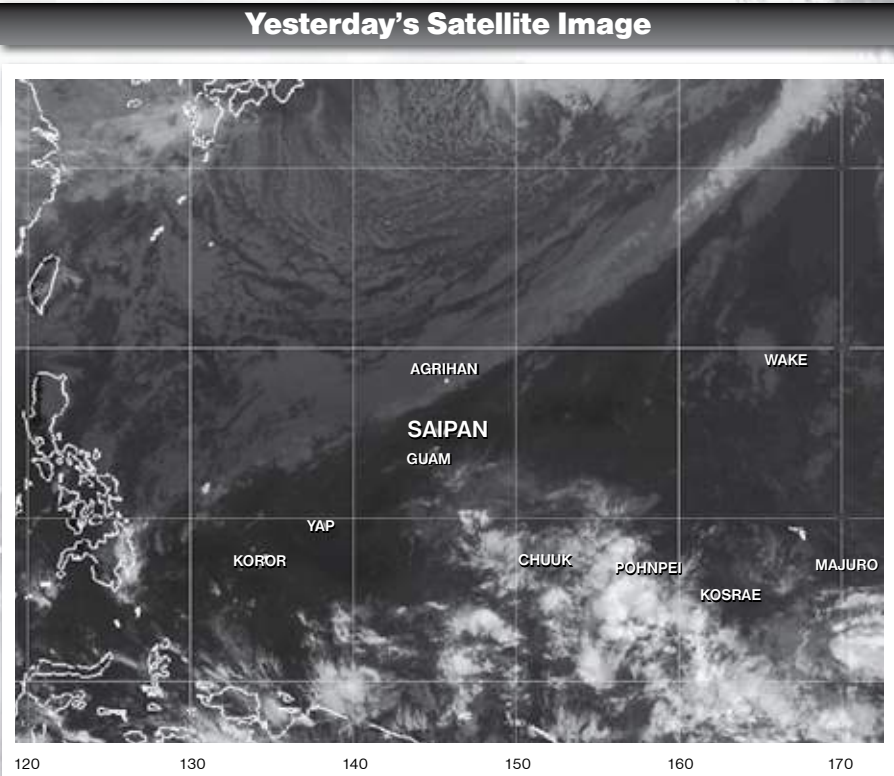
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲70 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲56 ▼36
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79 ▼64
Honolulu	Windy	▲82 ▼71
London	Showers	▲44 ▼38
Los Angeles	Showers	▲61 ▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼58
Miami	Sunny	▲77 ▼60
New York	Cloudy	▲60 ▼46
Osaka	Showers	▲65 ▼52
Paris	Showers	▲52 ▼39
Pusan	Rain	▲58 ▼44
Rome	Windy	▲65 ▼48
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼35
San Francisco	Showers	▲50 ▼44
Seoul	Rain	▲50 ▼38
Tokyo	Windy	▲67 ▼58
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲71 ▼51

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet



A shear line extends southwestward from 25N167E across Saipan then becomes diffuse west-southwest of the Marianas in the Philippine Sea. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 120 miles northwest of the boundary. Trade wind convergence associated with the near-equatorial trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Kosrae and Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 3N161E to 5N179E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM	Today	8:37 PM	7:25 AM
Friday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM	Friday	9:37 PM	8:14 AM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Saturday	10:35 PM	9:06 AM
Sunday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Sunday	11:29 PM	10:00 AM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Monday	11:29 PM	10:00 AM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 30, 2010									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM					GUAM-ROTA (ROP)				
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5		C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUAM					GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily		C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily		C09598	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily		C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily	
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily		C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily		C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily	
					C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)					NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN				
DL640	8:40am	11:25am	1, 3, 7		DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily		DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily	
DL640/646	8:40am	1:55pm	1, 3, 7 via NGO		DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily	
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily		DL287/641	6:35pm	1:40am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5		OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1		OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka	
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka					Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
			Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am		OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7	
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7		OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6		FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6		CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS	
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					6 via GUM	
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS		C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM	
			6 via GUM		OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ9317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM		OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM		PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM					3.5 via GUM	
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		C0892/9596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM	
			Daily via GUM		C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM	
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM		OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN	
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG					HONG KONG-SAIPAN				
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45pm	1 via ICN		OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	7 via ICN	
								1 via ICN	
					OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
					OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:55am	2:20am+1	Daily	

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Scarlet gourd situation on Saipan is improving

Over the years, scarlet gourd (*Coccinia grandis*) has been threatening the tree population on Saipan. Scarlet gourd is a fast growing vine that climbs up trees and kills them over time by taking away available light. It has been known to cause power outages when climbing up telephone poles.

To alleviate the problems that scarlet gourds are causing, the University of Guam, with help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, conducted research on biological control of scarlet gourd.

With the support of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, UOG scientists Dr. Rangaswamy Muniappan and Dr. Gadi Reddy set out parasitic insects on several sites in Saipan. In 2003, they released the scarlet gourd weevil (*Acythopeus cocciniae*) and in 2007 a moth, the scarlet gourd vine borer (*Melittia oedipus*).

The scarlet gourd weevil feeds on the leaves of the scarlet gourd. Its larvae mine the leaves, causing even more damage. Without leaves, the plant will eventually die. The scarlet gourd vine borer lays eggs into the stems of the scarlet gourd. The larvae feed on the inside of the stem and grow into moths.

Both insects are specialized on scarlet gourd, which means they will not attack any other plant species. Once the population of scarlet gourd is reduced, the number of insects will also shrink.

Earlier during the month, Dr. Reddy and Dr. Muniappan returned to Saipan to study the situation. Together with staff from NMC-CREES, entomologist Dr. Marisol Quintanilla and retired entomologist Dr. Joaquin Tenorio toured the release sites on Saipan. The research focused on the presence and the status of reproduction of moths and weevils.

The results of all studies and re-

NMC-CREES entomologist Dr. Marisol Quintanilla and visiting Dr. Rangaswamy Muniappan discuss findings on the scarlet gourd study.



searches have been very positive. Extensive leaf damage on the scarlet gourd showed that the weevil is well established on Saipan. Boreholes on many scarlet gourd stems showed that the moth was also doing well. The Scientists were able to find live larvae and pupae of moth and continued research is being done through the NMC-CREES entomology lab for rearing of additional moths.

As a part of his observation, Dr. Muniappan concluded that scarlet gourds retreated by about 30 to 50 percent since the release of the insects.

Both Dr. Muniappan and Dr. Reddy are confident that, should all factors remain constant and stable, the scarlet gourd will be further reduced over the next couple of years.

In the final briefing, NMC-CREES Director Ross S. Manglona thanked the visitors and stretched out the im-

portance of the hard work that involved parties have made into the effort.

"We are grateful to be able to work with in partnership with such esteemed

US installs disaster warning system in Samoa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A disaster warning system has been put in place for villages in Samoa so people no longer have to be afraid when they hear church bells ringing.

Church bells have been used to warn villagers of a tsunami or natural disaster but a new warning system has been donated by the United States government.

362 air horns have been distributed to more than 100 villages in Upolu and Savaii.

The US Charge d'Affaires in Samoa, Robin Yeager, says in the aftermath of last year's tsunami she heard a number of striking stories that prompted her to pro-

vide the warning system.

She says she heard many stories that every time church bells rang, villagers felt terrified and would run.

"Every time the church bells sounded whether it was for a disaster or for church or for anything else they had this panic attack. After hearing several people say something like that it occurred to me what we needed to do was differentiate the sound for a disaster from the sound of church bells which need to be panic free and allow people to just respond and go to church and go to meetings or whatever it is they need to do but not run for higher ground."

Babauta awards \$50K grant for marine research, education center on St. Croix

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta, signed a \$50,000 grant yesterday that will help architectural and engineering students from around the world to develop energy-efficient and environmentally-sustainable design ideas for a proposed Marine Research and Education Center in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The grant will enable the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories to plan its 2010 Student Design Competition, which will focus on developing innovative concepts for the proposed Marine Research and Education Center at Salt River Bay, St. Croix.

The Institute is carrying out the competition in partnership with the National Park Service, the Joint Institute for Caribbean Marine Studies and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

"The Marine Research and Education Center is a visionary project that will provide the people of St. Croix, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the region a world-class facility for students, scientists and the public to learn about our coral reefs," said Assistant Secretary Babauta. "The Office of Insular Affairs is proud to be partnering with the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories, the NPS and the Joint Institute for Caribbean Marine Studies in supporting

this exciting competition that will generate new ideas on ways to build sustainably in challenging environments."

"I am particularly optimistic and excited about this project because it engages and encourages our youth by rewarding excellence in architectural planning and design that integrates environmentally responsive design strategies," Babauta added. "When we talk about future sustainability, this is the direction we need to be heading in and energizing our youth, to think critically about these issues is a very promising start."

The Office of Insular Affairs has contributed more than \$2 million to the proposed Marine Research and Education Center, which will be an education, research and museum complex on a 73-acre site at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve. The complex will be built to LEED Platinum standards and rely on renewable energy resources.

The grant was issued under the Coral Reef Initiative. In November 2009, the Office of Insular Affairs awarded \$1.25 million to support the proposed Salt River Bay Marine Research and Education Center. Combined with earlier grants, the Office of Insular Affairs has contributed more than \$2 million toward this initiative. (DOI)



Babauta

Take Care/FHP is title sponsor of MMAC cancer survivors' dinner

Local health service provider Take Care/FHP will be sponsoring the annual MMAC cancer survivor dinner, which qualifies the company as a "title sponsor" of the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Take Care/FHP will also be participating as a team in the *puti'on* (corporate) category.

The MMAC committee is inviting all cancer survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment to the complementary dinner to be held in their honor on May 14, 2010, at 6pm, at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. All cancer survivors and patients who register and attend the dinner will be honored with a unique medallion commemorating their battle against cancer. They will also receive a free t-shirt. To register for the free dinner or for more information, contact the 2010 MMAC survivor committee chair Nora Sablan at 285-5124 or 235-0994 or via email at norasablan@gmail.com.

The 2010 MMAC committee members include Janine Nogis, overall MMAC chairwoman; Dave Guerrero, MMAC vice chairman; Catherine Attao and Tara White, luminaries; Reina Camacho, team recruitment and incen-

tive prizes; Jaimie Nogis, t-shirts and trophies; Nora Sablan, survivors; Chris A. Concepcion, public relations; Rachel Roque, sponsorship; Ricky Itibus, MMAC shop; Jojo Camacho and L.J. Castro, entertainment; Leilani Sablan, accounting and registration; Vincyia Seman, site and logistics; and Dr. Jack Hardy and David Rosario, advisers.

The 2010 MMAC will be held on May 14-15 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. There will be food, live performances, games and other fundraising activities throughout the night for the community to enjoy. The public is invited to help raise funds for the fight against cancer. Purchase a luminary for only \$5 each to honor a survivor or to remember a loved one who has lost the battle against this terrible disease. Raffle tickets are currently being sold for only \$5 each and prizes up for grabs include a free ticket to Asia, a free ticket to the U.S. or Canada plus other travel related items courtesy of MMAC title sponsor Delta Airlines.

For more information on the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer contact Janine Nogis at 483-4207 or via email at janine.nogis@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (MMAC)

scientists and for the efforts of our hardworking staff at NMC-CREES," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera.

For more information about the elimination of scarlet gourd, you can contact Dr. Marisol Quintanilla at the NMC-CREES entomology lab, 234-5498 x1432 or e-mail her marisolq@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DEQ Brigade sets islandwide cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality encourages the public to join the islandwide cleanup on April 23, 2010, as part of celebrations of Environmental Awareness Month in April.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, ask your company or agency to sign up with the EAM Committee by filling out the forms and selecting a route to clean. Volunteers will split into groups and go to selected beach or roadside and go north, south, east or west cleaning for about two hours or when finished.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Delegate candidate will appear on Marianas Agupa

Local attorney Joseph Camacho, a candidate for U.S. Delegate, will be a special guest on Marianas Agupa Chamorro Radio Talk Show this Saturday, April 3, 2010, from 9:30am to 10am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be on indigenous rights and opportunities. The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and airs every Saturday between 9am and 11am. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. (PR)

Senate committee seeks public comments

The Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare is encouraging all members of the general public to submit written recommendations, concerns, questions and/or comment on:

■ S. B. 17-10, SS1: To establish a population-based cancer registry in the Commonwealth Of The Northern Mariana Island; and

■ S.B. 17-11: To enact a new chapter 8 of the Division 2 of Title 3 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes (Medical Consent Act of 2010).

Copy of the legislation may be obtained at the CNMI Legislature in Capitol Hill, Saipan, at the Offices of Senator Ralph DLG. Torres, or the Senate Clerk, or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp.

To submit written recommendations, concerns, questions and/or comment, drop off at the Office of Sen. Ralph Dlg. Torres at the Legislative Building, may be e-mailed to senatorrtorres@gmail.com or may be mailed to P.O. Box 500129, Saipan, MP 96950.

Deadline for submission of comments is April 9, 2010.

For additional information, call (670) 664-8874.

Island Snapshots

PARADE OF BOOKS



Koblerville Elementary School bags the second place with their dramatization of *Aladdin* during the Rotary Club of Saipan's 6th Annual Parade of Books in the Marianas High School gymnasium on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Hundreds of students, parents, teachers and guests crowd the Marianas High School gymnasium in Susupe during the Rotary Club of Saipan's 6th Annual Parade of Books on Saturday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Golden Harvest International School students rejoice after winning third place during their first time to join the Rotary Club of Saipan's Parade of Books held this year in the Marianas High School gymnasium. The school performed *Beauty and the Beast*.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



AQUACULTURE WORKSHOP

NMC

World-renowned aquaculture expert Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons presents the enhancement of tilapia production and management to local aquaculture enthusiasts at a recent workshop sponsored by the Northern Marianas College. Dr. Fitzsimmons, a professor and environmental science extension agent from the University of Arizona, presented to a full house of nearly 50 individuals.



NEW CCAC CHIEF

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Angel Hocog, the new executive director of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, invites the public to join the celebrations for the 29th Annual Flame Tree Festival on April 23-25, 2010. Hocog was appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to the post on March 15, 2010. He served three and a half years as the governor's special assistant prior to his re-appointment. Hocog has been involved with the CCAC for over 10 years.



FAREWELL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above, "I thank my Lord for giving me precious friends at Palms Resort Saipan, Bible study brethrens and my beloved family, Church in Saipan. I treasure every moment and the fellowship we shared. I love you and I will surely miss you! The grace of Christ be with you all." Your little brother, Timothy Hong.



DOWN YOU GO!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A cadet is shown being assisted as he prepares to rappel down the bluff overlooking Ladder Beach. A total of 169 cadets representing Rota, Saipan Southern, Marianas, Tinian, and Kagman high schools converged on Obyan Beach to participate in the traditional JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Encampment, which ran from March 24 to March 28.



San Vicente Elementary School wins fourth place for their performance of *Alice in Wonderland* during the Rotary Club of Saipan's 6th Annual Parade of Books on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School students receive their trophy and check after winning fifth place for their *Sirena* performance at the Rotary Club of Saipan's 6th Annual Parade of Books on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Consumers slowly show signs of springing back



In this photo made March 26, 2010, Tracy Smiley looks over toothbrushes at a Wal-Mart store near her home in Lacey, Wash. Smiley feels better about her personal finances and the overall economy and has started to cautiously trade back up for certain items in her shopping.

NEW YORK (AP)—Signs of life in consumer spending are sprouting this spring.

A partial rebound in consumer confidence, a positive report on January home prices and an expected strong March from retailers suggest Americans are cautiously perking up.

The Conference Board said Tuesday its Consumer Confidence Index rose to 52.5 in March, recovering about half of the nearly 11 points it lost in February. Analysts expected a reading of 50 for March, but the index is still far below the 90 reading that's considered healthy.

Toyota promises quicker response on quality issues

TOYOTA, Japan (AP)—Toyota promised to respond faster to customer complaints as it held its first meeting of a quality experts committee set up to help salvage a reputation battered by massive recalls and reports of runaway vehicles.

Toyota Motor Corp. appointed chief quality officers in key regions—including North America—where the biggest

February's 46.4 marked the lowest level since April 2009 and also erased three consecutive months of improvement. In January, the reading was 56.5.

Economists watch the figures closely because consumer spending, including health care and other major expenses, accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity and is critical to a strong economic recovery.

"We're a lot better off, but we have a lot more improvement to go," said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers. He said

shoppers have "more willingness to spend" and are starting to trade back up in areas where they had cut back.

Separately, the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index showed prices rose 0.3 percent from December to January, the eighth consecutive monthly gain. Among the 20 cities in the index, 12 rose. But there's some worry the momentum in the housing market won't be sustained. Home sales sank during the winter, and government incentives that have propped up the market are ending.

problems have surfaced to convey customer complaints quickly to its headquarters. It promised to add outside experts, including former U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, in evaluating quality measures.

"Listening to consumer voices is most important in regaining credibility from our customers," said Toyota President Akio Toyoda at a news conference after the

quality committee met. "We are setting up a system to respond more quickly to complaints."

Toyota has recalled more than 8 million vehicles around the world since October for defective gas pedals, faulty floor mats and braking software glitches. Most of them have been in the U.S., where Toyota sales fell 9 percent in February, according to Autodata Corp.

September. The device apparently is still under review.

Oil hovers above \$82 after mixed US supply report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above \$82 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report gave mixed indications about the strength of U.S. crude demand. Benchmark crude for May delivery was down 9 cents to \$82.28 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 20 cents to settle at \$82.37 on Tuesday. Crude inventories rose last week by 421,000 barrels, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday. Analysts had expected an increase of 2.7 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos. Inventories of gasoline and distillates fell less than expected, the API said.

Nation

Obama takes care in sizing up 'tea party' movement

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama stepped carefully when talking for the first time about the conservative tea party movement, acknowledging it has legitimate concerns about federal reach and spending, but he contended the core of the loose anti-government network is "on the fringe."

The latest political phenomenon, barely a year old, has leaders on both sides of the political spectrum puzzled.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Finalizing two major pieces of his agenda, President Barack Obama on Tuesday sealed his health care over-

haul and made the government the primary lender to students by cutting banks out of the process.

The new law makes a series of changes to the massive health insurance reform bill. Those fixes included removing some special deals that had angered the public and providing more money for poorer and middle-income individuals and families to help them buy health insurance.

The law strips banks of their role as middlemen in federal student loans and puts the government in charge. The president said that change would save more

than \$60 billion over the next 10 years, which in turn would be used to boost Pell Grants for students and reinvest in community colleges.

■ ■ ■
Republicans want to co-opt the passion—and votes—of tea party disciples to help them oust Democrats from congressional control in the fall mid-term elections, without losing other voters in the process. As for Democrats, they have focused mainly on trying to marginalize and ignore them. For instance, several Democratic officials say there's no apparent strategy yet at the White House for combatting the network's growing influence.

Republicans say Steele will survive nightclub flap

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic groups tried Tuesday to make a campaign issue out of news that the national Republican Party spent \$1,946 at a sex-themed California nightclub, but GOP activists said party chairman Michael Steele will weather the hubbub.

The Republican National Committee fired a staffer who helped organize the Jan. 31 visit to Voyeur Hollywood West, which features topless dancers, bondage outfits and erotic

themes. It said it will recoup the money from a donor who paid the tab and was reimbursed by the party on Feb. 4.

The episode raises new questions about Steele's oversight of the RNC. But party officials said Steele knew nothing of the nightclub visit by a group of young Republicans, which was listed in a federally required financial disclosure report, and they promised to tighten accounting practices.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee pressed

numerous GOP candidates to say whether Steele should remain as head of the RNC. But GOP activists predicted the matter would blow over soon.

"I don't think there's going to be anyone who wants to challenge him," said Washington-based consultant John Feehery, who has advised several Republican candidates and officeholders. Steele generally has done a good job of catering to the needs of RNC members, Feehery said.

Bullying raises questions about schools' vigilance

BOSTON (AP)—A gay teenager in New York wins \$50,000 from a school district that failed to stop taunts about his sexual orientation. The Justice Department investigates complaints that administrators ignored racial bullying in a Philadelphia school.

And in Massachusetts, a 15-year-old girl hangs herself after

she is mercilessly harassed for months—taunting and threats that school administrators knew about but did not stop.

Now, with nine students charged in the bullying of Phoebe Prince, who hanged herself at her family's home in January, questions have arisen about how accountable school officials should be for stopping bullying.

Barbara Coloroso, a nationally known anti-bullying consultant, had been contacted by South Hadley school officials months before Phoebe's death, after a young boy in nearby Springfield killed himself. She spent a day there in September, training teachers and administrators on how to recognize and deal with bullying.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian markets lower ahead of jobs data, holidays

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets were mostly lower Wednesday as investors pared bets ahead of a key U.S. jobs report on Friday and the Easter long weekend. The lackluster trade in most markets followed gains the day before. The dollar strengthened against the euro and the yen, while oil prices lingered above \$82 a barrel. A modest advance on Wall Street overnight did little to help Asia. The mood in the U.S. was upbeat after a report showed consumer confidence surged in March—a sign debt-laden American households might be willing to spend more money, helping drive economic growth in the U.S. and in Asia. Still, the report wasn't all rosy, showing many consumers were still hesitant to splurge on cars and other big purchases, analysts said.

Scientist: FDA suppressed imaging safety concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—A former Food and Drug Administration scientist said Tuesday his job was eliminated after he raised concerns about the risks of radiation exposure from high-grade medical scanning. Dr. Julian Nicholas said at a public hearing that he and other FDA staffers "were pressured to change their scientific opinion," after they opposed the approval of a CT scanner for routine colon cancer screening. Nicholas said that he objected to exposing otherwise healthy patients to the cancer risks of radiation. After FDA officials pushed ahead with plans to clear the device, Nicholas, now a physician at the Scripps Clinic in San Diego, said he and eight other staffers raised their concerns with the division's top director Dr. Jeffrey Shuren last

ACROSS THE NATION

DC officials: 9 shot, 3 dead; arrests, no motive

WASHINGTON (AP)—A drive-by shooting killed three people and wounded six others in the nation's capital Tuesday night, and three people were in custody, officials said. A gunman sprayed bullets "into a crowd," said Police Chief Cathy Lanier. The shootings of six men and three women happened about 7:30 p.m. around the 4000 block of South Capitol Street in the southeastern part of the city, said D.C. Police Department spokesman Officer Hugh Carew. Fire Department spokesman Pete Piringer says all were in their 20s and 30s, except for one teenager. One victim died at the scene, one was dead on arrival at the hospital, and the third died in the operating room, said Carolyn Hammond, spokeswoman for Washington Hospital Center. She said a fourth person was in critical condition late Tuesday.

A battered Rhode Island watches as the water rises

CRANSTON, R.I. (AP)—A record-shattering rainstorm hammered the Northeast on Tuesday, delivering widespread flooding for the second time this month and unleashing particular havoc in Rhode Island, a tiny coastal state already beleaguered by a sagging economy and back-breaking unemployment rate. The storm soaked all corners of what is known as the Ocean State, pushing rivers over their banks, closing roads and schools, and requiring hundreds of people to evacuate, including by boat. The rain finally tapered off by Tuesday afternoon but resumed in Providence by evening, with officials bracing for what is expected to be the most severe flooding to hit the state in more than 100 years. As flood waters began to sweep through first floors in some areas, rivers from Maine down to the New York area weren't even expected to crest until Wednesday or Thursday.

day or Thursday.

Philly charter school moonlights as a nightclub

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Who knew a school cafeteria could be so much fun? A space where hundreds of Philadelphia charter school students have been eating their lunches during mundane weekdays has been doubling in its off-hours as nightclub, offering dancing and drinking despite an expired liquor license. City and school officials are not happy about the arrangement between Club Damani and the Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School, which serves about 450 children in kindergarten through eighth grade. Superintendent Arlene Ackerman said in a letter to Harambee on Monday that "a school and a nightclub cannot coexist in the same space and (the arrangement) must cease immediately," according to a school district statement.

Asia

SKorea suspends underwater search

BAENGYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)—Stormy conditions forced the military to suspend the search for 46 sailors missing since a mysterious blast blew apart their navy ship last week, officials said Wednesday, a day after a diver died during the rescue mission.

Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae told reporters that divers could not go down to the wreckage of the Cheonan due to the prospect of rain, high winds and a swift current. Parts of the ship remained moored in the

rough Yellow Sea near Baengnyeong Island, just south of the two Koreas’ maritime border.

Divers managed to get down to the section where sailors are believed trapped but heard no signs of life inside, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. They attempted to get into a door in the stern Tuesday but made little headway, Rear Adm. Lee Ki-sik said.

Also Tuesday, a 53-year-old diver who lost consciousness during a rescue attempt died and another was treated for injuries.

The sailors’ families gathered

at a naval base south of Seoul cried and yelled as they demanded that authorities step up the search operation.

An explosion ripped the 1,200-ton ship apart Friday night during a routine patrol, officials said. Fifty-eight crew members, including the captain, were rescued.

Military officials say the exact cause of the explosion remains unclear, and U.S. and South Korean officials say there is no evidence of North Korean involvement.

China safety body says rules ignored in mine flood

XIANGNING, China (AP)—Safety rules and danger warnings had been ignored in a rush to open a coal mine in northern China where flooding of the shafts has left 153 workers trapped for nearly three days, a government safety body said Wednesday.

Officials say there have been no signs of life at the Wangjialing mine in Shanxi province since 108 miners es-

caped or were rescued following the flooding Sunday. Desperate relatives of miners have pleaded for rescue work to be speeded up.

A notice posted on the Web site of the State Administration of Work Safety said all mines in China had been told to learn from the mistakes at Wangjialing and take precautions. It said a preliminary analysis showed

that during tunneling workers broke through into an old shaft, triggering the flood.

“They violated regulations and policies during the work process, did not conform to the regulations on coal mine prevention of water leaks,” it said.

The notice said that in a rush to finish the work, extra tunneling crews were assigned, overcrowding the shaft.

Malaysia movie censors ease up, but scorn bikinis

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia’s censors have loosened decades of restrictions on sexual and religious content in movies, but are still keeping a tight leash on tiny bikinis, kisses and passionate hugs on screen.

The guidelines—made public on the Home Ministry’s Web site

this week—are meant to “ensure the creativity of filmmakers is not blocked,” with the caveat that “extremely negative elements” should remain off-limits, the ministry’s secretary general, Mahmood Adam, said in a statement.

The state-run Film Censorship Board has long faced criticism

for snipping off scenes considered too racy and banning some movies altogether. Several Hollywood films banned last year include Sacha Baron Cohen’s “Bruno,” which the board said promoted homosexuality because it centered on a flamboyant gay fashion journalist.

ASIAN BRIEFS

2 detained for dead babies found along China river

BEIJING (AP)—The bodies of 21 babies, some with hospital identification tags around their tiny ankles, washed ashore on a

river in eastern China and two mortuary workers were detained for allegedly dumping them. News footage Tuesday showed the babies—at least one of whom was stuffed in a yellow plastic bag marked “medical waste”—

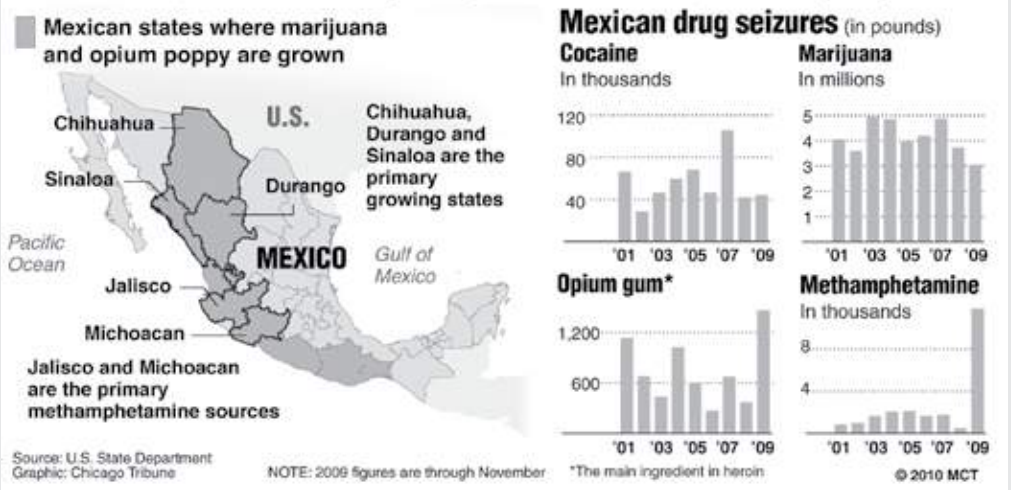
strewn along a dirt riverbank near a highway overpass. A few wore diapers. All were caked in mud. Some of the babies appeared several months old, while the official Xinhua News Agency said the bodies included fetuses. Local residents and firefighters recovered the bodies Monday after they were discovered under a bridge spanning the Guangfu River on the outskirts of Jinan in Shandong province.

Afghan president wraps up talks with insurgents

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai and representatives of a major militant group wrapped up a first round of peace talks Tuesday, reaching no final deal but pledging to continue a dialogue that if successful would split the ranks of the Taliban-led insurgency. The talks with Hizb-i-Islami were the first public face-to-face negotiations in the capital between Karzai and representatives of an insurgent group. Hizb-i-Islami, led by former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, is far smaller than the Taliban but is active in at least four provinces of eastern Afghanistan and parts of the north. Its defection from the insurgency would be a coup for Karzai and could encourage some members of the Taliban to explore their own peace deals.

World

Mexican suspect: Killing targeted US guard’s car



CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—A suspect in the killing of three people linked to the U.S. consulate says his gang was hunting for the vehicle of a Texas jail guard who was slain in one of the two white SUVs attacked, Mexican authorities said Tuesday.

The purported confession appears to suggest that El Paso jail officer Arthur H. Redelfs was targeted in the March 13 shootings in Ciudad Juarez that also killed his wife, Lesley A.

Enriquez, an employee of the U.S. consulate in this border city. The husband of another consulate worker was killed in the other vehicle attacked.

A statement by the joint army, federal and state anti-crime task force in Chihuahua state said suspect Ricardo Valles de la Rosa confessed to acting as a lookout in the shootings. It said he had been imprisoned in the United States and deported in 2007, after which he took up with the Barrio Azteca gang.

According to the statement: An Azteca gang leader “ordered him by telephone some days before to locate the white sport utility vehicle in which Arthur Hancock Redelfs was traveling, which he did on March 13 at a children’s party.”

Valles de la Rosa told investigators that “when the sport utility vehicle left that spot, he advised other colleagues in the Aztecas, who ordered him to follow it.”

Slim hopes for more Colombia hostage releases

FLORENCIA, Colombia (AP)—Sgt. Pablo Emilio Moncayo’s family waited 11 years for Colombian rebels to decide to let their prisoner go. Then came an anxious year of waiting for it to actually happen.

Now that the guerrillas have freed two captive soldiers—the first such move in more than a year—it appears families of other Colombians still held hostage have only slim hopes of seeing any more releases soon.

Spending a dozen years as a prisoner, Moncayo was one of the longest-held hostages of the

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or the FARC. He was released Tuesday, two days after another fellow soldier, and flown by helicopter from an unannounced handover spot in southern Colombia to an emotional reunion with his family in the city of Florencia.

The leftist rebels still hold at least 20 police officers and soldiers, including Libio Jose Martinez, a sergeant who was captured in 1997 along with Moncayo during a guerrilla attack on a mountain outpost.

“Our hopes remain and we

have to keep fighting,” said Fanny Martinez, a cousin of the 33-year-old soldier.

The rebels sent a statement with the humanitarian team that picked up Moncayo in which FARC commander Alfonso Cano said: “With this unilateral gesture, the FARC considers the path cleared for the immediate exchange of prisoners of war.”

But President Alvaro Uribe has opposed a swap of imprisoned rebels for hostages unless any guerrillas who are freed agree to abandon the FARC.

WORLD BRIEFS

Vatican offers 3 reasons it’s not liable for abuse

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Dragged deeper than ever into the clerical sex abuse scandal, the Vatican is launching a legal defense that it hopes will shield the pope from a lawsuit in Kentucky seeking to have him answer attorneys’ questions under oath. Court documents obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press show that Vatican lawyers plan to argue that the pope has immunity as head of state, that American bishops who oversaw abusive priests weren’t employees of the Vatican, and that a 1962 document is not the “smoking gun” that provides proof of a cover-up. The Holy See is trying to fend off the first U.S. case to reach the stage of determining whether victims actually have a claim against the Vatican itself for negligence for allegedly failing to alert police or the public about Roman Catholic priests

who molested children.

Iraqi PM fights to hold power, risks sectarian war

BAGHDAD (AP)—Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s post-election strategy suggests he is prepared for a long and bitter fight to hold on to power, even if it alienates the country’s Sunni community and risks new sectarian warfare. The Iraqi leader is trying all sorts of legal maneuvers to deny victory to his chief opponent, former prime minister Ayad Allawi, whose secular, nationalist bloc won the most parliamentary seats in the March 7 elections and presumably the right to try to form a new government. Even if al-Maliki sticks with nominally legal measures, he risks serious damage to all the efforts to ease sectarian tensions which had begun to bear fruit three years after the U.S. troop surge. A resurgence of major violence would complicate U.S. plans to

withdraw all its forces from Iraq by the end of next year.

Serbia offers apology for Srebrenica massacre

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Serbia’s parliament approved a declaration Tuesday condemning the 1995 Serb massacre of 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica, in a bid to distance the country from past warmongering under the late strongman Slobodan Milosevic. The declaration passed with a slim majority of 127 votes in the 250-seat parliament, after a daylong debate that underscored persisting divisions in the country over Serbia’s role in the 1990s conflict. “The National Assembly of Serbia harshly condemns the crime committed against the Bosnian residents of Srebrenica in July 1995 ... expressing condolences and apology to the victims’ families because not all was done to prevent this tragedy,” the declaration says.

Jerome Muna Fejeran and Joetta Gayle Quitugua
Box 10006 PMB 172
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 235-1870

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of:] FCD AD
] CIVIL
] ACTION
KENDALL] NO.
JOVAUGHN] 10-0085
CABRERA MUNA]
Minor Child,]
By:] NOTICE
] OF
JEROME M.] HEARING
FEJERAN and]
JOETTA G.]
QUITUGUA,]
Petitioners.]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 8, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 19th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Joseph Tenorio & Victoria Tudela Guerrero
P.O. Box 500707 CK
Saipan, MP
Telephone No. 670-288-5337

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:] FCD GU
] CIVIL
] ACTION
R.B.G.D.] NO.
Minor Child,] 10-0124
By:] NOTICE
] OF
Joseph Tenorio] HEARING
& Victoria Tudela]
Guerrero,]
Petitioners.]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 12, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Focus

WARSAW, Poland (AP)— An Austrian priest avoids mention of Pope Benedict XVI in his Masses. A Philadelphia woman stops going to confession, saying she now sees priests as more flawed than herself. British protesters call for the pontiff to resign.

As the faithful fill churches this Holy Week, many Roman Catholics around the world are finding their relationship to the church painfully tested by new revelations of clerical abuse and suggestions Benedict himself may have helped cover up cases in Germany and the U.S.

There are fears that for those whose commitment is already wavering, the scandal could be the final blow, and a growing chorus is clamoring for the church to embrace full transparency, take a hard line against pedophiles, and reconsider the rule of priestly celibacy.

"There's too many victims, and too much lying from the church about what really happened," said Martin Sherlock, a Catholic newspaper vendor in Dublin, Ireland.

Experts say the church is facing a crisis of historic proportions.

"This is the type of problem that arises really once in a century, I think, and it might even be more significant," said Paul Collins, an Australian church historian and former priest.

Collins, 69, said the abuse controversy was not mentioned by the priest in his own church near Canberra on Palm Sunday, but that the congregation discussed it afterward outside.

"People are outraged really, they're furious with the complete failure of the church's leadership and their view would be that we are led by incompetent people," Collins said.

That view was echoed by many Catholics interviewed around the world by The Associated Press in recent days, although the pope also had defenders.

One of them was John Ryan, a retired glue factory worker, who said he was impressed by the letter Benedict wrote to the Irish faithful last week in which he chastised Irish bishops.

"I was talking to my parish priest last weekend, and we were reading the pope's letter, and he told me: This pope is the most intelligent pope we've had in the last thousand years," said Ryan, 66, after a Mass in Dublin. "I couldn't disagree with that. I don't really think we could do better than with Benedict. I know they're supposed to be infallible, but I'd say most Catholics today would accept that nobody's perfect—not even the pope."

In staunchly Catholic Poland, the homeland of the late Pope John Paul II and a place where churches are packed even on work days, the top church authority called the pope the target of an "unprecedented media attack."

Allegations that Benedict concealed abuse "are totally groundless and it is hard to understand them in any other way than as a direct attack on the per-



Catholics find ties to the church tested by crisis

Members of SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests) hold a press conference outside The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee, Monday March 29, 2010. The group claims that top Catholic officials in Rome vilified, mischaracterized and insulted victims in the last few days.

By **VANESSA GERA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

son and dignity of the pope," Henryk Muszynski, the Primate of Poland and Archbishop of Gniezno, said Sunday.

But across the Atlantic, Jasmine Co said her faith in the church was badly shaken.

The 56-year-old nurse, who recently moved to the U.S. from the Philippines, said she has stopped confessing her sins to priests, and is turning to God directly.

"I don't believe in confession to the priest because I don't know if that priest is more of a sinner than I am," Co said after attending a Palm Sunday service in central Philadelphia.

On Sunday in London, about 50 protesters staged a demonstration calling on the pope to resign—something that hasn't happened in 700 years.

The criticism is also coming from pulpits.

Udo Fischer, an Austrian priest known for his liberal views, avoids mentioning Benedict and other church leaders by name during his Masses—at least until he sees stronger signals of remorse from the Holy See.

"We always stress that this is the church of Jesus Christ—that of the Lord Jesus and not that of the Lord Pope," Fischer said after a Palm Sunday service in his parish in Paudorf, a village near Vienna.

Parishioners young and old squeezed into pews in Fischer's modern and airy

church clutching bunches of pussy willows blessed by the priest.

Traditionally Catholic Austria, shaken by clergy abuse claims in past years and again in recent weeks, risks a drop in already dwindling support for the church if no concrete action



An anti-Pope protester holds up a banner stands beside an empty pram as they demonstrate outside Westminster Cathedral in London in a demonstration calling for the Pope Benedict XVI to resign and accusing the Pope of covering up child sex abuse by Catholic clergy in the past, Sunday, March 28, 2010.

is taken to prevent further abuse and cover-ups, says Regina Polak of the University of Vienna's Institute for Practical Theology.

"The situation is very fragile right now," Polak said. "The potential for frustration is high."

In Spain, a heavily Catholic country where secular lifestyles are eroding church attendance, a coalition of more than 100 liberal-minded lay and clergy-based groups called the Vatican's handling of the scandal "irresponsible and insufficient," saying it failed to "put itself firmly on the side of the victims."

In Norway, Oslo's Bishop Bernt Eidsvig told Catholics in a letter last week that "the culture of silence that certain bishops advised is a betrayal."

Perhaps most ominous is the threat to the pope's own authority.

David Gibson, author of "The Rule of Benedict," a biography of the pope, said the criticism focusing on Benedict puts the "the mystique of the papal office" in peril.

"And above all, it diminishes his credibility, his ability to convince people of his message, to have people listen to him. It distances many Catholics, I think, even further from the institutional hierarchical church," said Gibson.

Even as Easter Week began, anxiety was heard in many places, with people struggling to draw a line between the

crimes of some priests and their own deep attachment to communities and the beliefs that sustain them.

"At this point in my life I wouldn't leave the church for somebody else's sins," said Linda Faust, 56, after a Mass in Greendale, Wisconsin—the state where the late Rev. Lawrence Murphy was accused of molesting some 200 boys at a school for the deaf. Benedict, at the time Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, is linked to a decision in the 1990s not to defrock Murphy.

Instead, Faust said that she and her husband pray for the child victims, the abusive priests and the archbishops who let them transfer to other parishes.

A key focus for those seeking church reform is celibacy—a tradition dating to Christianity's early days but only made mandatory in the 11th century. Both Collins in Australia and Bishop Geoffrey Siundu, a former Catholic priest in Kenya, said the rule should go.

Siundu now heads the Ecumenical Catholic Church of Christ in Kenya, said the celibacy rule has driven 30 other ex-priests to join his church.

Kathrin Radelmayer, 24, attended Mass in Munich, where Ratzinger's handling of a case when he was archbishop there has been questioned. She said she was sticking with the church even though many of her friends and relatives are distancing themselves now.

"It is such a shock for the church, but the church has withstood a lot in its 2,000 years and I think that it will survive this as well," Radelmayer said.

Marina Buendia, a 22-year-old nurse from Madrid, went to St. Peter's Square in Rome with a friend for the Pope's Palm Sunday Mass. She defended the church.

"The news of these cases has come to the Vatican far too late for the Vatican to be held responsible," she said. "I think that the Vatican has accepted the problem, which is a step in the right direction. We are both very religious and feel a very strong personal bond with the pope, which would never be affected by such scandals. As young Catholics, we feel welcome and included by the church."

At a Mass in Minneapolis, Teresa Schweitzer, a 45-year-old English teacher, said the handling of abuse cases compounds her disenchantment over other matters, including women denied leadership roles. But she drew comfort from the many Catholic priests and activists she has seen helping the poor and pursuing social justice.

"I've had a lot of disappointments over the years, and I'm hanging by a thread," Schweitzer said. "I keep coming back for the community—the way we support each other in so many ways. Do you give up on that? Or do you stay in it and fight for justice? I think that's where a lot of us are at now."

■■■

Associated Press Writers Veronika Oleksyn in Paudorf, Austria, Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, Tom Odula in Nairobi, Patrick Condon in Minneapolis, Ron Todt in Philadelphia, Dinesh Ramde in Milwaukee, Ian MacDougall in Oslo, Andrea M. Jarach in Munich, Monika Scisłowska in Warsaw, Alice Herford in Rome, Daniel Woolls in Madrid and Jim Fitzgerald in White Plains, New York, contributed to this report.

Environment

EPA to increase restrictions on flea, tick products Cautions consumers to use products with extra care

Due to a significant increase in adverse incidents, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking a series of actions to increase the safety of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control for cats and dogs. Immediately, EPA will begin reviewing labels to determine which ones need stronger and clearer labeling statements. Next, EPA will develop more stringent testing and evaluation requirements for both existing and new products. EPA expects these steps will help prevent adverse reactions. In dogs and cats that can include skin effects, such as irritation, redness, or gastrointestinal problems that include vomiting or diarrhea, or effects to the nervous

system, such as trembling, appearing depressed or seizures—from pet spot-on products.

“EPA is committed to better protecting the health and safety of pets and families in all communities across our nation,” said Steve Owens, assistant administrator of EPA’s Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. “New restrictions will be placed on these products, and pet owners need to carefully read and follow all la-

beling before exposing your pet to a pesticide.”

Flea and tick products can be appropriate treatments for protecting pets and public health because fleas and ticks can

transmit disease to animals and humans. While most people use the

products is a concern.

People should carefully follow label directions and monitor their pets for any signs of an adverse reaction after application, particularly when using these products for the first time. Negative reactions in dogs and cats can include drooling, burns, tremors, seizures or even death.

EPA recommends that owners consult a veterinarian about the best way to protect their pets from fleas and ticks or whether pesticides are needed, especially before using any product on weak, aged, medicated, sick, pregnant or nursing pets, or on pets that have previously shown signs of sensitivity to pesticide products. (EPA)



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking a series of actions to increase the safety of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control for cats and dogs.

Protections for sharks used in Chinese soup voted down

By RENEE SCHOOF
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—An international wildlife trade group on Tuesday turned down a proposal to protect several species of sharks that are hunted for their fins for a Chinese banquet soup.

Votes to protect three species of hammerhead sharks—scalloped, great and smooth—and the oceanic whitetip shark fell just several votes short of the two-thirds’ majority needed to pass at a meeting in Doha, Qatar, of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The convention voted in favor of protecting another shark species—the porbeagle, caught mainly for its meat, which is eaten in Europe—but it voted against trade restrictions for another shark that’s caught for its meat, the spiny dogfish.

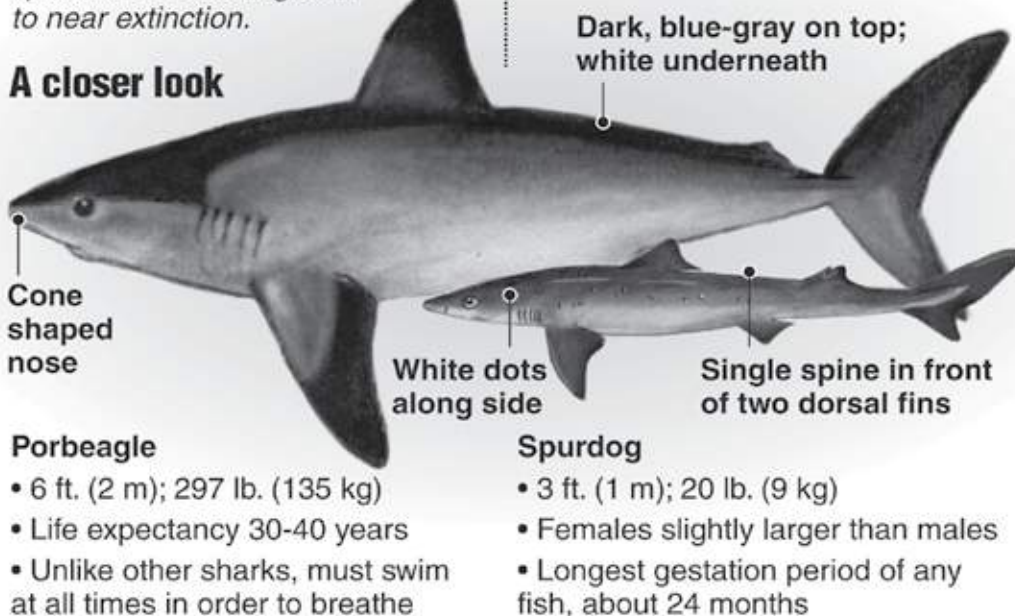
The votes were “a major loss for marine conservation,” Assistant Interior Secretary Tom Strickland, the head of the U.S. delegation to the meeting, said in a statement. “Sharks play a critical role in the marine environment. As a result of these decisions these species will continue to be overexploited in international trade. We are encouraged, however, by the strong majority vote in favor, and we will continue our efforts to protect these shark species.”

As a top predator, sharks play an important role in the food chain, affecting marine life down to the health of coral reefs. Studies show that shark populations in parts of the ocean have declined by 80 percent to 99 percent. Sharks take many years to reach adulthood and produce only a few young per year. “They’re being harvested at a much faster rate than they can reproduce,” Elizabeth Griffin, a shark specialist at the conservation group Oceana, said in a phone interview from Doha.

Saving sharks

The demand for shark fin soup is driving many species of these large fish to near extinction.

A closer look



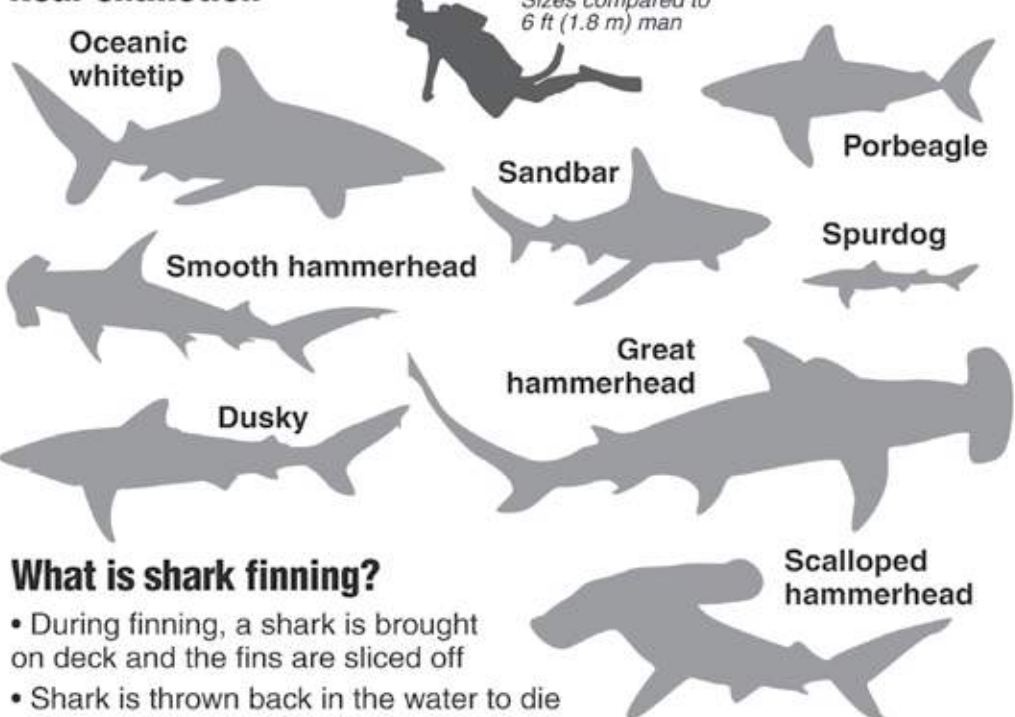
Porbeagle

- 6 ft. (2 m); 297 lb. (135 kg)
- Life expectancy 30-40 years
- Unlike other sharks, must swim at all times in order to breathe

Spurdog

- 3 ft. (1 m); 20 lb. (9 kg)
- Females slightly larger than males
- Longest gestation period of any fish, about 24 months

Near extinction



What is shark finning?

- During finning, a shark is brought on deck and the fins are sliced off
- Shark is thrown back in the water to die
- Finning only utilizes five percent of the shark’s body weight; shark meat is considered inferior to other fish

© 2010 MCT

Source: Shark Alliance, Oceana
Graphic: Melina Yingling

DO YOUR PART

Green your spring cleaning routine

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Spring is in the air. Time to open the windows, let that fresh air in, and rejuvenate your cleaning routine. This year make that deep down clean as green as it can be. There are lots of options for eco-friendly cleaners that will help you Do Your Part to keep dangerous chemicals out of the environment, both inside and outside your home.

Yes, the air inside your home can be polluted and in fact, could actually be worse than the air outdoors. One contributor to poor air quality inside is chemical cleaners. Through residues left behind on floors and surfaces or fumes in the air, these chemicals can contaminate your home. Plus, research shows links between these chemicals and a number of health issues ranging from asthma and allergies to reproductive problems. And the problems don’t stop there. When we put those nasty chemicals down the drain, traces of them bypass the water treatment process, contaminating the environment.

Unfortunately finding an eco-friendly cleaner requires a little work because cleaning companies are not required to list all the ingredients in their products. Even if they do, it’s easy to hide toxic secrets in their ingredients labeled ‘fragrance’ or ‘scent’. Here’s what you need to look for in a truly eco-friendly cleaner:

Start with reading the label. Those companies that are truly using safer ingredients want you to know it. If the ingredient list is a bunch of chemicals you can’t pronounce, it’s probably not green.

Next, look for the government’s “Design for the Environment” (DfE) logo. You can find it on hundreds of products and it means the product only contains chemicals the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency believes are the safest in their class. Method and Clorox’s “Green Works” lines both carry the DfE logo.

But, not all green cleaners carry the seal. Seventh Generation products, for instance, opted not to put the government’s environmental logo on their products claiming they far out perform other government approved green cleaners and are much safer for the environment. In fact, Seventh Generation is one company actually pushing Congress for tougher toxic chemicals regulations.

Of course, you can’t beat the cost of some basic green cleaners. White distilled vinegar, lemon juice and baking soda won’t harm the environment and mixed together or with some warm water, are the most inexpensive all purpose cleaners you can find. Just don’t use vinegar on marble because it can damage it. For tough jobs like mold or toilet bowls, try Borax. It’s a washing soda found in the laundry aisle.

I’m often asked what I use at home. I use a lot of vinegar and baking soda but I also love the naturally safe and effective Shaklee Basic H2 concentrated product. Just a few drop mixed with water cleans just about anything. You can find it online at Shaklee.com.

The last thing you want to do when you deep clean is pollute the air inside your home. Using chemical-based cleaners may get rid of the dust and dirt but you could be creating a whole other set of problems. So, Do Your Part for your family and the planet and green up your cleaning routine.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more every day green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com

Twiggy: 'It could have gone terribly wrong'

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Back in the Mod 1960s, when Twiggy conquered London and fashion changed forever, the waif of a teen with huge eyes, a boyish bob and long legs craved the glamour and curves of a different icon.

"Whether you're thin, fat, small, dark, blond, redhead, you wanna be something else," said the world's first boldface supermodel. "I wanted a fairy godmother to make me look like Marilyn Monroe. I had no boobs, no hips, and I wanted it desperately."

What she wanted was all around her: fuller-figure models with names nobody remembers, many of them middle-class or upper-crust older girls biding their time before landing husbands. Absent any of that, what Twiggy had was extreme youth, a thirst for fashion and triple-layered false eyelashes that fed her right into the decade's social revolution alongside the Beatles and Pop art.

Now 60, she remains a one-name

wonder with a joyous laugh, a gift for chat and a home girl cockney accent. She has achieved, slightly, some of those coveted curves, but she has not lost her edge. The singer, dancer, actress and author is not done just yet.

Twiggy soon will hit the HSN shopping television network with an affordable line of skinny jeans, ruffled blouses, gypsy skirts, jackets and accessories in bold colors and price points of under \$100. That, she said, would have pleased her younger self, who saved up spending money to splurge at London's popular Biba boutique.

"I've always had the strong belief that fashion should be for everyone, not just for wealthy people," said Twiggy, lounging on a white hotel settee between Union Jack accent pillows. "Lots of people can't afford to spend lots of money on clothes, and they should have nice things, too."

Lots of people who wear lots of different sizes. The "Twiggy London" line will be available up to around size 20, said the creator, who cites genes, not starvation, for the rail-thin look that

made her the face of 1966 at age 16.

It is not the first time Twiggy has indulged her interest in design, or remote shopping. Her "Twiggy Collection" of last decade was sold online through the portal Great Universal. There were other home shopping ventures as well. Back in the '60s, she put out a line for teens but left it in the dust of some bad business partners after three years.

"We were very green then. We're a bit wiser now. A little bit older, a little wiser," she laughed.

The youngest of three girls, she was born Lesley Hornby in north London's Neasden to a carpenter dad and a factory worker mom who worked a Woolworth's counter to earn extra money. At 5-feet, 6 inches,—short for a model—Twiggy weighed only 91 pounds when she exploded into the culture.

Working Saturdays as an assistant in a hair salon, she met Nigel Davies, who became her boyfriend and manager, changing to the flashier Justin de Villeneuve. They arranged for a popular hairdresser to engineer her androgynous 'do for photos he put up in his



AP
This undated photo released by Home Shopping Network, HSN, shows Twiggy in one of her designs for HSN, in London.

Heather Mills squares off against former nanny

LONDON (AP)—Heather Mills, the ex-wife of Paul McCartney, defended herself from accusations made by a former nanny at an employment tribunal in Britain on Tuesday.

Sara Trumble, 26, said Mills was a rude, angry and dishonest woman who forced her to lie to McCartney.

But Mills said Tuesday she treated Trumble like a daughter, showering her with gifts and foreign travel.

It was the second day the case was heard at an employment tribunal in the town of Ashford, in southern England, where Trumble is suing Mills for allegedly stripping her of her child-care duties after she gave birth to her own baby girl.

Trumble worked for McCartney and Mills, looking after their young daughter Beatrice, but she claims her relationship with Mills began to deteriorate after her split from the ex-Beatle.

Trumble says she was progressively moved out of her job as a nanny, and that Mills refused to show her any flexibility once she became pregnant with her own child.

The former nanny also claimed that the 42-year-old "Dancing With The Stars" contestant became increasingly bad-tempered after the separation.

"I wasn't the only person who felt that at that time," Trumble said. "It's just that nobody else will stand up. I decided to take action and fight this for myself."

Mills said the charge that she refused to make allowances for her nanny's child was insulting, and both agreed that they had once been close.

In previous testimony, Trumble said she provided Mills with "comfort and support" after her split with McCartney. Taking the stand Tuesday, Mills said she was the one who gave her nanny a

shoulder to cry on. "I treated Sara like my daughter as she often complained that her mother was cold and distant to her," Mills said. "I spent much of my time consoling her, especially when she said she was having problems with her partner."

Trumble accuses Mills of reducing her to tears after calling her back into work while she was still on maternity leave, and humiliating her when she reassigned her to work as a cleaner following the hiring of a new nanny.

Mills herself briefly broke into tears as she described the support she said she'd given her employee.

Describing herself as "overly helpful Heather," Mills said she hired Trumble as a way "to help her better herself, as I thought she had huge potential." She added that Trumble was "more of a baby sitter" than a qualified nanny.

salon. The pictures were spotted by one of his clients who wrote for the Daily Express and splashed Twiggy across two pages to launch her career.

By 1967, she was on the cover of Vogue magazine and jetting around the world working six days a week and spreading the London look to America. Knee-length hems and pillbox hats inspired by Jackie Kennedy still were the norm when she made her first visit to the United States that year.

Before she was discovered, she was already painting on tiny lower lashes—

"my twigs"—to help make her eyes look as large as tea saucers. Her look was perfect for emerging unisex trends and ever-rising hemlines, but it opened the debate still raging over whether skinny models promote an unhealthy body ideal, especially for young girls.

"It was debated when I hit the headlines and I always came out and said that I was very healthy, which I was, and always ate, which I do. I love my food. I just come from a lineage. My dad was very slim, so it's kind of in the genes really," she said.

TOP OF THE WEEK

Top 10 singles, albums on iTunes

iTunes' top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending March 29, 2010:

Singles

1. "Hey, Soul Sister," Train
2. "Break Your Heart (feat. Ludacris)," Taio Cruz
3. "Rude Boy," Rihanna
4. "Nothin' On You (feat. Bruno Mars)," B.o.B
5. "Telephone," Lady GaGa, Beyonce
6. "Need You Now," Lady Antebellum
7. "Imma Be," Black Eyed Peas
8. "Carry Out (feat. Justin Timberlake)," Timbaland
9. "Baby (feat. Ludacris)," Justin Bieber
10. "Blah Blah Blah (feat. 3OH!3)," Ke\$ha

Albums:

1. "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber
2. "Still Standing," Monica
3. "Volume Two," She & Him

4. "Need You Now," Lady Antebellum
5. "My World," Justin Bieber
6. "The Fame Monster (standard)," Lady GaGa
7. "Broken Bells," Broken Bells
8. "The Twilight Saga: New Moon (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Various Artists
9. "Plastic Beach," Gorillaz
10. "Battle of the Sexes," Ludacris

Top 20 prime-time TV programs

Prime-time viewership numbers compiled by the Nielsen Co. for March 22-28. Listings include the week's ranking and viewership.

1. "American Idol" (Tuesday), Fox, 24.21 million.
2. "Dancing With the Stars," ABC, 24.19 million.
3. "American Idol" (Wednesday), Fox, 21.44 million.
4. "Undercover Boss," CBS, 16.72 million.
5. "60 Minutes," CBS, 14.49 million.
6. "Two and a Half Men," CBS, 14.46 million.
7. "The Big Bang Theory," CBS, 13.42 million.
8. "NCIS," CBS, 13.04 million.
9. "The Amazing Race," CBS, 12.73 million.
10. "Castle," ABC, 12.21 million.
11. "NCAA Basketball Championship (Saturday, 6:55 p.m.), CBS, 12.05 million.
12. "Grey's Anatomy," ABC, 11.57 million.
13. "NCIS: Los Angeles," CBS, 11.34 million.
14. "NCAA Basketball Championship (Thursday, 9:37 p.m.), CBS, 11.32 million.
15. "Survivor," CBS, 11.15 million.
16. "NCAA Basketball Championship (Friday, 9:31 p.m.), CBS, 11.08 million.
17. "CSI: Miami," CBS, 10.80 million.
18. "Law & Order: SVU," NBC, 10.58 million.
19. "Cold Case," CBS, 10.32 million.
20. "NCAA Basketball Championship (Thursday, 7 p.m.), CBS, 9.68 million.

million.

Top 15 cable shows in Nielsen ratings

Rankings for the top 15 programs on cable networks as compiled by the Nielsen Co. for the week of March 22-28. Day and start time (EDT) are in parentheses:

1. "Kids' Choice Awards" (Saturday, 8 p.m.), Nickelodeon, 4.51 million homes, 7.64 million viewers.
2. "SpongeBob Square-Pants" (Saturday, 9:30 a.m.), Nickelodeon, 3.71 million homes, 4.86 million viewers.
3. "Victorious" (Saturday, 9:30 p.m.), Nickelodeon, 3.42 million homes, 5.70 million viewers.
4. "WWE Raw" (Monday, 10 p.m.), USA, 3.41 million homes, 4.87 million viewers.
5. "Life" (Sunday, 8 p.m.), Discovery, 3.36 million homes, 5.29 million viewers.
6. "SpongeBob Square-Pants" (Sunday, 10:30 a.m.), Nickelodeon, 3.36 million homes, 5.11 million viewers.
7. "Life" (Sunday, 9 p.m.), Discovery, 3.34 million homes, 5.28 million viewers.
8. "SpongeBob Square-Pants" (Sunday, 10 a.m.), Nickelodeon, 3.29 million homes, 4.75 million viewers.
9. "NCIS" (Thursday, 9 p.m.), USA, 3.17 million homes, 4.14 million viewers.
10. "NCIS" (Monday, 8 p.m.), USA, 3.15 million homes, 4.25 million viewers.
10. "NCIS" (Wednesday, 8 p.m.), USA, 3.15 million homes, 4.15 million viewers.
12. "SpongeBob Square-Pants" (Saturday, 9 a.m.), Nickelodeon, 3.13 million homes, 3.95 million viewers.
13. "iCarly" (Sunday, 11 a.m.), Nickelodeon, 3.10 million homes, 4.56 million viewers.
14. "NCIS" (Thursday, 8 p.m.), USA, 3.08 million homes, 3.96 million viewers.
15. "Penguins of Madagascar" (Saturday, 10 a.m.), Nickelodeon, 3.08 million homes, 4.16 million viewers.

'Dancing With the Stars' dismisses its first celeb

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After two weeks on "Dancing With the Stars," Shannen Doherty is leaving the ballroom.

The actress was the first celebrity eliminated from the new season of the hit ABC show. She and professional partner Mark Ballas were axed during Tuesday's episode.

"Dancing isn't really my thing," she said after learning her fate. "I did it for my dad."

The 38-year-old "Charmed" and "90210" star said on last week's season premiere that she joined the "Dancing" cast to honor her father, a big fan of the show who recently suffered



AP
In this publicity image released by ABC, actress Shannen Doherty, left, and her partner Mark Ballas perform on the celebrity dance competition series, "Dancing With the Stars," Monday, March 22, 2010 in Los Angeles.

day. "I call that a success."

She said her elimination may have been fate, as Ballas hurt his knee during rehearsals and was using a crutch during Tuesday's episode.

"I pulled the muscle off the bone so I'll be out for six weeks," he said.

The judges seemed to appreciate the couple's two dances, calling their jive "energetic" and their Viennese waltz "ambitious." But fans failed to keep them afloat. Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which celebrity is eliminated each week.

Viewer votes saved the lowest-scoring contestant, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who earned 14 points out of 30 for his cha-cha last week and 12 points for his foxtrot on Monday's episode.

Besides Aldrin, remaining competitors include Olympic figure skater Evan Lysacek, actors Niecy Nash, Pamela Anderson and Aiden Turner, reality stars Jake Pavelka and Kate Gosselin, singer Nicole Scherzinger, sportscaster Erin Andrews and football star Chad Ochocinco.

Bruce Lee's wife, daughter open Hong Kong exhibit

HONG KONG (AP)—Bruce Lee's wife and daughter on Tuesday unveiled an exhibition of the late kung fu star's personal items, photos and movie posters in Hong Kong.

The exhibit, which includes a boxing head guard and a pair of sunglasses used by Lee, is part of a tribute to the late actor at the 34th Hong Kong International Film Festival. The festival is also hosting a seminar on his work this Sunday and screening nine of his movies in honor of what would have been his 70th birthday later this year.

"I think that he would be thrilled to know that his legacy has gone on and on for as long as it has and that it will continue to go on and inspire people for many, many more years to come," said Lee's daughter, Shannon Lee Keasler, who attended the opening ceremony with her mother, Linda Lee Cadwell.

Lee was a source of Chinese pride by portraying characters that defended the Chinese and the working class.

a stroke. He sat in the audience, watching his daughter perform.

"To see my dad's face light up the way that it did and how proud he was of me just filled me with this kind of amazing emotion of thankfulness," Doherty said Tuesday.

Rip Torn pleads not guilty in bank break-in

LITCHFIELD, Conn. (AP)—Actor Rip Torn pleaded not guilty Tuesday to burglary and firearms charges stemming from his January arrest inside a Connecticut bank after hours.

State police have said the 79-year-old Emmy award winner was so intoxicated on the night of Jan. 29 that he broke into the Litchfield Bancorp branch with a loaded gun, thinking it was his home in Salisbury in northwestern Connecticut.

Torn is charged with criminal trespass, carrying a gun without a permit, carrying a gun while intoxicated, burglary and criminal mischief.

Superior Court Judge James P. Ginocchio allowed him to remain free on \$100,000 bond, under the condition that he stay away from alcohol. Torn said he was more than happy to comply.

Torn's attorney, A. Thomas Waterfall, said the actor, who is currently appearing in the movie "Happy Tears," has moved from an impatient to an outpatient rehabilitation program.

"Today we established with the court the excellent strides that Rip has made through his treatment," he said.

Torn received probation last year in a Connecticut DUI case and also had alcohol-related arrests in New York in the past.

He told reporters that he had been through rehabilitation before, and had been sober for some time before the night he was arrested.

"I've never missed a day's work in my life," he said.

He is due back in court on April 27.

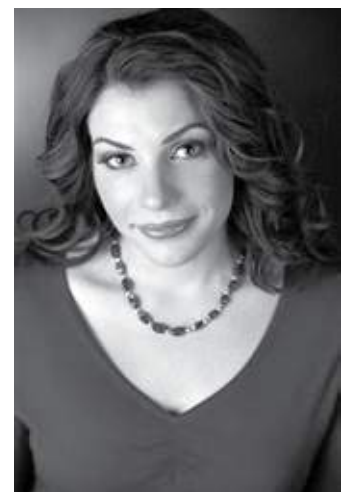
Waterfall declined to say if Torn is currently working.

'Twilight' author Meyer has novella coming soon

NEW YORK (AP)—Attention "Twilight" fans: Stephenie Meyer has a new book coming out.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers will release "The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner" on June 5.

The novella is told from the viewpoint of Bree, a newborn vampire featured in "Eclipse." That's one of the books in Meyer's



AP
In this photo released by Little, Brown and Company shows author Stephenie Meyer. Meyer has a new book coming out.

best-selling teen-vampire saga.

Meyer says in a statement Tuesday the novella had originally been planned for "The Twilight Saga: The Official Guide." But she says it became too long to fit into the guide.

The publisher says one dollar for each book sold in the U.S. from the first printing of 1.5 million copies will be donated to the American Red Cross International Response Fund. It supports disaster relief efforts such as those in Haiti and Chile.

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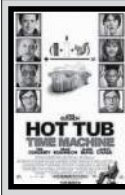
How To Train Your Dragon

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Gerald Butler, America Ferrera
 Children, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The son of a Viking chief must capture a dragon in order to mark his passage into manhood and prove his worthiness to the tribe in directors Lorna Cook and David Soren's adaptation of Cressida Cowell's popular children's book. Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Jonah Hill, Jay Baruchel, and Christopher Mintz-Plasse provide the voices for the DreamWorks Animation production.



Hot Tub Time Machine

Friday	4:05	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:10	

John Cusack, Robert Corrdry
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

A group of high school pals reunite at an old ski lodge party spot after years of being apart and find that the hot tub has magical time travel powers which teleported them to 1987. John Cusack, Rob Corrdry, Craig Robinson, and Clark Duke star in the MGM comedy, with Steve Pink directing from a script by Josh Heald.



Repo Men

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20	

Jude Law, Forest Whitaker
 Science Fiction • Rated R



Diary of Wimpy Kid

Friday	4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:30	

Zachary Gordon, Steven Zahn
 Children's, Family • Rated PG



The Green Zone

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:25	

Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
 Drama • Rated R



She's Out Of My League

Friday	4:20	9:40
Saturday	4:20	9:40
Sunday	4:20	
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	

Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
 Comedy • Rated R



Alice in Wonderland

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
 Fantasy • Rated PG



Dear John

Friday	7:05
Saturday	1:05
Sunday	1:05
Mon thru Thurs	7:05

Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
 Drama • Rated PG 13

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Judge finds accused Garner-Affleck stalker insane

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge is sending a man arrested outside a school attended by Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck's daughter to a state mental hospital.

Los Angeles County District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says Steven Burky pleaded no contest Tuesday to two counts of stalking the celebrity couple and their children.

Robison says a judge found the 37-year-old to be not guilty of the offenses by reason of insanity after a hearing. Burky was ordered to stay away from Garner, Affleck and their family for 10 years if he is released.

Burky was arrested in December outside a school attended by one of the couple's daughter, a violation of a civil restraining order Garner obtained in 2008.



In this Feb. 8, 2010 file photo, Jennifer Garner arrives at the premiere of Valentine's Day in Los Angeles.

Karl Rove speech cut short by anti-war protesters

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Anti-war protesters have heckled former White House political adviser Karl Rove off the stage at his book signing in Beverly Hills.

About 100 Rove supporters watched Monday as Code Pink co-founder Jodie Evans walked toward him with handcuffs, calling him a war criminal and saying she was making a citizen's arrest.

Ten protesters in all repeatedly interrupted Rove's talk at the Saban Theatre as he promoted his memoir, "Courage and Consequence: My Life As a Conservative in the Fight."

Rove says the allegation that the Bush administration lied about weapons of mass destruction "is a pernicious political attack launched by cynical and hypocritical individuals."

There were no arrests.



In this Oct. 27, 2009 file photo, Karl Rove, former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to former President George W. Bush, answers a question before a debate healthcare at Penn State University in State College, Pa.

Prosecutors renew demands for Polanski's return

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors angrily deny claims by Roman Polanski's lawyers that they tried to conceal evidence in his 32-year-old sex case, and they have renewed demands that an appeals court order him to return to the United States for sentencing.

Two prosecutors who handle appellate matters for the district attorney's office argue in a 26-page brief filed Tuesday that allowing Polanski to avoid extradition from Switzerland hurts the integrity of the judicial

system more than revelations of alleged misconduct by a now deceased judge.

They also claim there has been a misinterpretation of an extradition treaty with Switzerland and that Polanski should be returned for a court hearing in Los Angeles.

The 76-year-old film director fled the U.S. in 1978 after pleading guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor. He remains under house arrest at his chalet in Switzerland.

Survey: Kids spurn celeb chef's healthy lunches

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—A survey shows kids at the West Virginia school featured in "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution" liked their standard pizza and chicken nuggets more than the celebrity chef's fresh, healthy menu items.

And when denied the food they were used to, many stopped buying the school lunch.

The survey at Central City Elementary in Huntington also found children drank

less milk after Oliver removed the sugary chocolate and strawberry bottles.

But there is a bright spot in the data from the West Virginia University Health Research Center: More than six in 10 kids said they'd learned to try new foods.

ABC chose to have the show in Huntington after a 2008 Associated Press story dubbed the five-county metropolitan area the nation's unhealthiest.

Outlandish letter writers take the cake on April Fools' Day

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR READERS: It's April Fools' Day again, the day I share some of the letters I receive that are so farfetched I wouldn't print them any other day because they are either over the top or under the bottom, depending upon one's perspective. Read on:

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: As I was eating my lunch yesterday, I saw the image of Abraham Lincoln on one of my potato chips. As I was daydreaming about how much money I would make charging people to see it, I absently popped it into my mouth and ate it! Is there anything I can do about this?

DANA IN PALM SPRINGS, CALIF.

DEAR DANA: Absolutely. Start thinking about some other original ways to make money. Your potato chip may have been delicious, but unfortunately, you ATE your business plan.

DEAR ABBY: While I was out of town on a business trip, my wife suddenly became a vegetarian. While that may sound like a good thing to some people, it is a matter of great concern to me. Since becoming a vegetarian, she has gained 30 pounds and no longer has her girlish figure.

In addition, she will no longer swat flies or kill a roach in the house, saying she doesn't kill anything anymore. Perhaps others who have encountered this situation can give me some hints on how to handle this.

ARKANSAS CARNIVORE

DEAR ARKANSAS CARNIVORE: I sure hope so—I'll let you know if I hear from anyone who wants to weigh in on your problem. But in the meantime, you'll have to cook your own steaks and kill your own insects.

DEAR ABBY: Please help me make my life better and answer a question that has been troubling me for some time. How do men on death row get their toenails cut? Are they actually given sharp objects to do it for themselves? I can't figure it out.

PERPLEXED IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your question is one I have pondered for some time, as well. Because men on death row are not supposed to have sharp objects, they take turns chewing each other's toenails off. I have this on good authority—and I'm not conning you.

DEAR ABBY: I have fallen deeply in love with a homeless man, and I have been trying unsuccessfully to convince him to move in with me for some time, but he just won't leave his cardboard box. He says it has sentimental value that I just don't understand. Please help me, Abby. What should I do?

CARLA IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR CARLA: Try this. Have him move his cardboard box into your home, then he won't have to give it up and can spend as much time as he needs in it. Then slowly coax him out of his box for longer and longer periods of time, and you'll both have what you want. Good luck.

DEAR ABBY: I want to marry a nice, sweet girl who just completed her prison sentence for abandoning her illegitimate kid. My problem is, my dad sells drugs, my mother died in an asylum of syphilitic insanity, my two sisters are hookers and my older brother is awaiting trial for killing his girlfriend's husband. My younger brother is a U.S. congressman. Should I tell my future bride the awful truth about my younger brother?

PETE W., GILCHRIST, TEXAS

DEAR PETE: Absolutely! And, unless you're afraid it will scare her off, you should also mention you're a creative writer.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

EU President Van Rompuy to publish book of poems

BRUSSELS (AP)—Little known Belgian. Gets EU's highest office. Publishes poems. EU President Herman Van Rompuy, known to some as Haiku Herman, will publish a book of poetry next month. The former Belgian prime minister is an avid writer of haiku, a traditional Japanese form of poetry. Van Rompuy has been criticized as boring since he was picked for the EU's top job in November but some say his haikus stand out. Until now, he has published them on his blog. Now, with his higher profile, he'll take the next step April 15. Haiku are unrhymed verses of three lines. Van Rompuy sometimes writes them on political themes, including one last year to laud Belgian-Spanish-Hungarian cooperation: "Three waves. Roll

into port together. The trio is home," he wrote.

Patrick Stewart returns to B'way in Mamet revival

NEW YORK (AP)—Patrick Stewart will star in David Mamet's next Broadway production, a revival of "A Life in the Theatre," opening this fall. Producer Jeffrey Richards announced Tuesday that rehearsals will begin Aug. 23 for the play, first seen in Chicago in 1977 and then off-Broadway. "A Life in the Theatre" is a backstage tale about the relationship between an older performer and a younger performer. The other role is still to be cast. The director is Neil Pepe. Stewart was last seen on Broadway in 2008, playing the title character in "Macbeth." Pepe also directed the 2008 Broadway revival of Mamet's "Speed-

the-Plow." Mamet currently is represented on Broadway with "Race," starring James Spader (SPAY'-dur), David Alan Grier (greer), Kerry Washington and Richard Thomas.

Streisand scheduled to appear at BookExpo America

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbra Streisand will appear at the opening-night keynote reception for BookExpo America to promote "My Passion for Design." The book world's annual national convention will be held May 25-27 at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York City. Event director Steven Rosato says Tuesday that Streisand's appearance "calls attention to the strength, vitality and excitement that is so much part of the book industry." "My Passion for Design" reveals the taste and style that have inspired



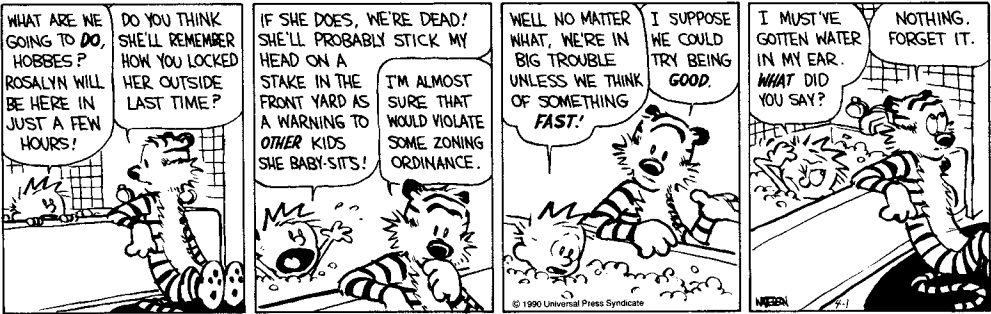
In a Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 file photo, singer Barbra Streisand poses for a photo at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York.

the singer's homes and collections. It will be Streisand's first appearance on behalf of the book, to be published Nov. 16 by Viking.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



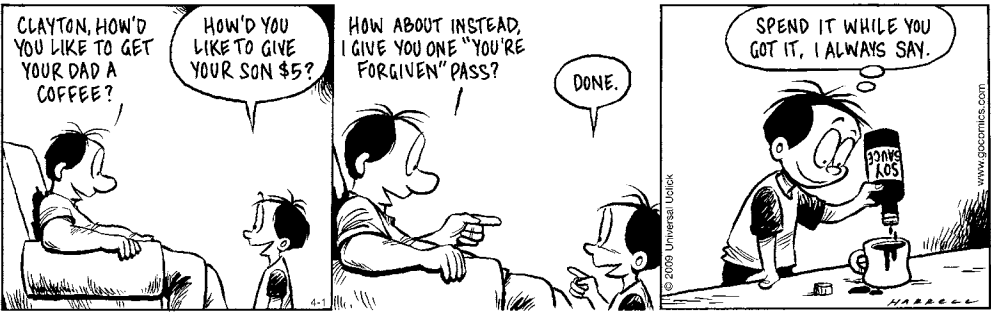
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rum cake

5 Kennel noises

9 Drunkard

12 Actor John who wed Shirley Temple

13 From the start

14 "Yecch!"

15 Hero sandwich

17 One of the guys

18 Restrain

19 Following

21 Freudian concept

22 Western movie

24 Quick

27 Doctrine

28 Changes direction suddenly

31 Old French coin

32 Conk out

33 Bill's partner

34 Unpaid amount

36 Still, in verse

DOWN

1 Take pleasure (in)

2 Chills and fever

3 Sweetie

4 Axilla

5 Knitting need

6 Singer DiFranco

7 Corral

8 Perspiration

9 Take away

10 Shrek, for one

11 Son of 53-

16 Succor

20 Shriner's chapeau

22 Basketry willow

23 Congregation's cry

24 Nourished

25 Expert

26 Summon to court

27 Notion

29 Moo — gai pan

30 Bribe

35 Jerry's pursuer

37 Woe

39 Surgical instrument

40 Pouch

41 Vicinity

42 Castle

43 "Tiger in your tank" brand

44 Broad

45 Long-legged wader

46 Debonair bloke

49 Guitar's cousin

50 Stein or Stiller

Solution time: 25 mins.

MEME R I O A C T S
I V A N E R G R A R E
C A R D I N A L B R U T
E N S U R E E T U D E S
P E W D A T A
O R C S A T M U M P S
P E A K L E A S O R E
S T R E P A N T M O W
D E E D D E B
S T E P P E I N L A W S
E R N E C A R D I G A N
L I A R O N O M A G I
L O S S Y I N P R E P

Yesterday's answer 4-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18							19	20		
			21			22	23			
24	25	26		27				28	29	30
31				32				33		
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41	42					43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bijou Phillips, 30; Susan Boyle, 49; Annette O'Toole, 58; Debbie Reynolds, 78

Happy Birthday: The more you do, the more you will have to contribute. This is a year of accomplishment, learning and making whatever change is necessary to help you progress. Opportunities will come from the most unusual places and will offer an interesting set of choices. Be ready to discover talents you never realized you had. Your numbers are 2, 5, 11, 16, 21, 28, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will have the energy and the discipline to finish what you start. A partnership will open doors to interesting and unusual options regarding work and the people you deal with. Display sincerity and honesty. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't leave any room for error, especially when dealing with home, family and your responsibilities. Emotional upset and trouble with the people you deal with on a daily basis will develop if you let a misunderstanding turn into a major fiasco. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Give a unique edge to the work you do and you will be noticed by someone who can offer you more options. First, however, find out exactly what's involved. Your timing must be impeccable. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on your work and what you can do to make your services invaluable. Changes regarding your financial future look promising, so position

yourself to be considered for better employment opportunities. Networking will pay off. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): With the options you are given, it will be difficult to decide if you should listen to your heart or your head. Put your work first for now and, once you have secured your position, you will have a better handle on how to improve the personal aspects of your life. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't wait for change to happen when you should be the instigator. Your plans can lead to all sorts of perks, personally and professionally. Making improvements to your home or actually moving from one location to another will bring you professional and personal benefits. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An unusual opportunity will arise if you network with people who have the money or services required to get an idea up and running. Your sophisticated, original way of approaching what needs to be done will earn you greater respect. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's up to you to make a move or a change before someone forces you to do so. The first step is always the hardest but, once you get moving, nothing will slow you down or stand in your way. A short trip will pay off. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have to be careful when dealing with friends and relatives. Offering to take on too much will eventually lead to problems and conflicts. Read the fine print and avoid any sort of overindulgence. ★★

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your spontaneity will grab people's attention, especially in your personal life. A fun-loving approach to life and love will make you more approachable. Love is in the stars and you will be difficult to resist. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll upset someone you care about if you make a move without consulting first. It's time to make a to-do list to achieve goals that will make you feel good about yourself. An uncertain financial situation must be dealt with. ★★

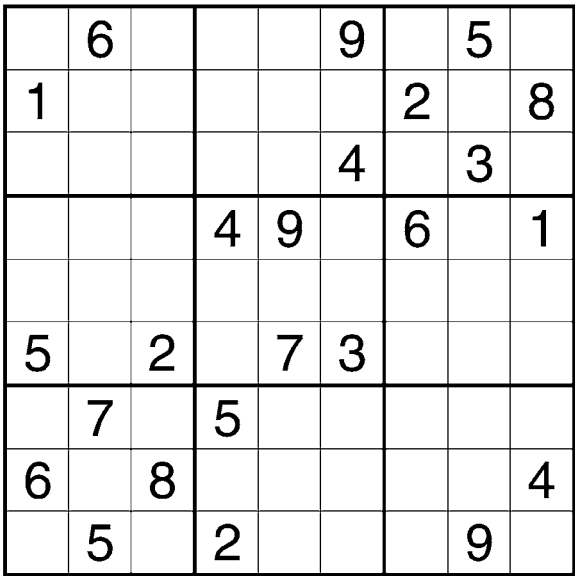
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Something of value will help you free up the cash you need to pursue something different. Don't let someone else's uncertainty cloud your mind or stop you from following through. There is money to be made. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are an ideas person and are not afraid to try new things and take on a challenge. You are intuitive, opportunistic and unique. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



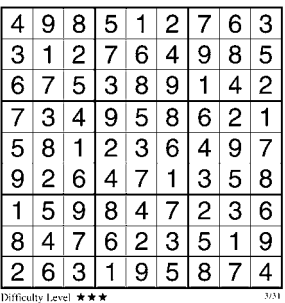
Difficulty Level ★★★

4/01

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

3/51

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WINTER TIRES

Solution: 6 letters



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4/1

Asphalt, Cars, Circumference, Conditions, Contact, Control, Costly, Drive, Feature, Fitted, Freeze, Friction, Highway, Indicators, Lateral, Leverage, Limits, Noise, Off-Road, Rain, Replace, Rims, Rotate, Safe, Sections, Service, Sides, Siped, Size, Slick, Snow, Speed, Storm, Street, Tear, Tires, Traction, Tread, Truck, Turn, Water, Wear, Weather, Winter, Worn

Yesterday's Answer: Accounting

We listened to your request! TREASURY #4 is the first ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 15 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 p&h (\$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-942-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
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Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0268

Plaintiff, SECOND AMENDED
NOTICE OF SALE

vs.

AARON D. TAWNEY AND
AGNELIA P. TAWNEY

Defendant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May 4, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 01, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants, **Aaron D. Tawney and Agnelia P. Tawney** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

That certain indenture of lease made by Antonio S. Guerrero, as lesser, to Playford M. Ramsey and Kristin V. Ramsey, as lessee, by that assignment dated may 31, 1995 and recorded June 1, 1995 as Document No. 95-1331 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan and assigned to Aaron Tawney and Agnelia P. Tawney, lessee, by that assignment dated 26 September 2000 and recorded 13 October, 2000 as document No. 2154 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, demising and leasing for a term of 55 years, beginning May 26, 1995 and ending may 25, 2050 the following described premises.

EA 148-1-20, (part of EA 148-1-R2, which was formerly part of EA 148-1-R1, which was part of original EA 148) Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 2097 / 95, the original of which was recorded May 9, 1995 as Document No. 95-1157 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, said the property is located in I-Akgak Saipan, Northern Mariana Island.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on April 08, 2010 at the hour 10:30 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may five any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a) Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b) Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery. Late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d) Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a) Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or be certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b) Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c) Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 31st day of March, 2010.

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR

/s/ **DANILO T. AGUILAR**
Auctioneer

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
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Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0271

Plaintiff, SECOND AMENDED
NOTICE OF SALE

vs.

ANDRESINA BENAVENTE,

Defendant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May 13, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 15, 2009 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant, **Andresina Benavente** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

E.A. 216-5-1, (formerly part of E.A. 216-5, which was part of E.A. 216), as more particularly described in Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 2053/89, the original of which was recorded on 02 February as 1989, as Document No. 89-352, at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, said property is located in As Perdido Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on April 08, 2010 at the hour 10:45 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may five any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.

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Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 31st day of March, 2010.

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR

/s/ **DANILO T. AGUILAR**
Auctioneer

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(PRINT AND ONLINE)

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Nash helps Suns clinch playoff spot



Chicago Bulls' Taj Gibson defends as the Phoenix Suns' Steve Nash drives to the basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 30, 2010, in Chicago. AP

CHICAGO (AP)—Jason Richardson scored 27 points and Channing Frye hit a clutch 3-pointer with 41.6 seconds to go Tuesday night and the Phoenix Suns clinched a playoff berth by beating the Chicago Bulls 111-105 for their eighth straight win.

Steve Nash scored seven of his 22 points in the final two minutes and had 10 assists. Amare Stoudemire added 21 points for the Suns, 13 in the first quarter.

Flip Murray and Derrick Rose, who kept Chicago close down the stretch with 10 points in the final period, had 23 points each. The Bulls are 1 1/2 games behind Toronto for the eighth playoff spot in East.

Richardson's 3-pointer with three minutes left gave Phoenix a one-point lead, but Rose drove in for a

short shot and put Chicago back ahead 12 seconds later.

Nash's turnaround jumper put the Suns up before Rose answered with two free throws to make it 101-100 Chicago with 1:36 to go.

Nash then drove the lane for a layup with 1:14 to go, was fouled and sank the free throws to give Phoenix a 103-101 lead. But Rose hit two more from the line with 59.8 seconds remaining for a tie.

Frye then hit a high-arching 3 from the top of the key with 41.6 seconds to go for a 106-103 lead, but Rose drove in for another basket to get the Bulls within one.

Nash then made a nice pass to Grant Hill for a dunk with 23.2 seconds remaining to restore Phoenix's lead to three. After Rose missed a long 3-pointer, Nash sank a pair of free throws with 13 seconds to go.

Stoudemire dunked on the break over James Johnson, was fouled and converted the three-point play to highlight a late 10-0 first-quarter run by the Suns that opened up a quick 12-point lead.

The Suns' lead didn't last long as Jannero Pargo hit a pair of 3-pointers and Murray another in a 13-2 Chicago run that tied the game early in the second.

Thunder 111, 76ers 93

At Philadelphia, Kevin Durant had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeff Green added 16 points as Oklahoma City cruised over Philadelphia.

Nenad Krstic added 14 points and Russell Westbrook had 10 points and 14 assists for the Thunder (45-28).

James Harden also had 12 points and Serge Ibaka 10 for Oklahoma City, which is nearing its first playoff appearance since 2004-05 as the Seattle SuperSonics.

Elton Brand scored 22 points, Andre Iguodala added 21 and Jrue Holiday had 11 for the Sixers, who had their two-game winning streak snapped.

Bucks 107, Clippers 89

At Milwaukee, rookie Brandon Jennings scored 17 points and went the extra distance to protect Milwaukee big man Andrew Bogut in a win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bogut scored 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds in his second straight game since missing one with a sore back, and Jennings, who added six assists and five rebounds, came to the Australian's aid late in the third quarter when tensions rose after a spat of rough play.

Pacers 102, Kings 95

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 25 of his 33 points in the second half to lead Indiana over Sacramento for its eighth straight home win.

Troy Murphy added 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Roy Hibbert and Earl Watson each scored 10 for the Pacers, who have won six of seven to improve to 28-47. They had their five-game winning streak snapped at Atlanta on Sunday.

Jason Thompson and Beno Udrih each had 18 points, and Carl Landry finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds for Sacramento (24-51), which has lost five straight. Rookie of the Year candidate Tyreke Evans, who missed the previous five games due to a concussion, had 17 points, 10 assists, seven rebounds and four steals.

Rockets 98, Wizards 94

At Houston, rookie Chase Budinger hit a go-ahead jump shot with 28 seconds remaining and made two free throws as Houston escaped with a win over Washington.

The win breaks a four-game skid for the Rockets and extends Washington's team-record losing streak to 16 games.

In this matchup of banged-up and undermanned squads, it seemed for most of the game that neither team would pull away. The Rockets finally did, thanks to Budinger's career-high 24-points, to win their first game since Kevin Martin has been out of the lineup with a sore shoulder.

KU's Aldrich leaving early for NBA



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Cole Aldrich, fighting back tears, said Monday he'll skip his senior year at Kansas and head for the NBA.

The 6-11 center, who averaged almost a double-double for the Big 12 champions, is projected by most experts as a high first-round pick.

"The last three years have been pretty special," he said.

Blessed with a wingspan greater than most men his height, Aldrich averaged 11.3 points and 9.8 rebounds for the Jayhawks, who were the overall No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament before they were upset by Northern Iowa. He also set a team record with 125 blocks.

The Jayhawks are still waiting for a decision by freshman swing man Xavier Henry, their second-leading scorer.

It would have been a surprise if Al-

drich had elected to remain in school. His father, Walter Aldrich, is a construction worker who's been put out of a job by the recession.

"We've known this was going to happen since last year," said coach Bill Self. "To be real candid with everybody, and I think Cole would agree with this, I would strongly discourage him from coming back.

"I think he paid his dues here and I do think it is time for him to move forward into another chapter. He has made a lot of sacrifices—his family has—to come back in a time when he didn't have to. We're all very proud of him."

Aldrich, a native of the Minneapolis area, said he planned to hire an agent soon.

"First of all, I want to thank everybody just for the opportunity I've had here," said Aldrich. "It's been a fun one."

Aldrich referred to his paternal grandmother, who died during this

past season after a long illness.

"I don't want to get choked up or anything, but the last three years have been pretty special. It's been a lot of highs, a few lows with my grandma..."

He paused and looked down.

"It's been a special time for me and my family. I've talked with them extensively. We went through somewhat of the same process last year in figuring out what I wanted to do. I think my time has come in my life to change the chapter and go from one great chapter to hopefully start another great chapter in life."

Aldrich and senior guard Sherron Collins, who are close friends, made a joint decision last spring to return this season and pursue an NCAA championship. But that was thwarted when Northern Iowa upset them in just the second round.

He was a reserve on the 2008 national championship team.

Nets chief exec brown bags it with bag protesters

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The New Jersey Nets' brown bag summit is over.

Nets chief executive Brett Yormark had a roughly 30-minute "brown bag" lunch on Tuesday with a fan that he confronted last week after the man wore a paper bag over his head to protest the NBA team's dismal season.

McDonald's provided the hamburgers, fries and salads and the brown bags for Yormark, two members of the Nets' radio broadcasting team and brothers Chris and Rob Lisi of Middletown.

Yormark exchanged words and pointed his finger at Chris Lisi a week ago Monday during the Nets' loss to the Miami Heat. He defended his actions the next day, saying he was standing up for a team that at the time was in danger of setting the NBA record for fewest wins in a season (9-73).

New Jersey (10-64) has won three of four games since the incident and won't go down in history as the league's worst team. That dubious honor still belongs to the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers.

"Today was another good example of us being able to tell our fans, hey, when you want a voice, you'll get one with us," Yormark said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "That's who we are, the type of franchise we are and we want to be. I think resorting to a brown bag doesn't do anyone any good and they realize that, and they were very nice and had good things to say about the franchise."

The lunch at the team's headquarters in East Rutherford was streamed over the Nets' web site although the broadcast shut down because so many people logged on, Yormark said.

Yormark and broadcasters Chris Carrino and Tim Capstraw did most of the talking during the lunch, noting how the Nets are in great position for the future. They will have one of the top draft picks, roughly \$23 million in salary cap room to spend on a free agent class that might include LeBron James and Dwyane Wade and they have a couple of young stars in point guard Devin Harris and center Brook Lopez.

Yormark spoke with the brothers after the lunch and invited them to attend another game.

"I think, in many respects, a lot of good things have come out of this," Yormark said. "We were able to reinforce our message to season ticket holders. We don't have any more brown bags in the building, not that we had a lot to begin with before that incident, our players seemed to rally around it and we are playing our best basketball of the season."

"I don't know if it was a negative," Yormark added. "It was an unfortunate incident. I try to make the most of any situation and I think I did."

The brown bag lunch wasn't the only marketing Yormark did after his run-in with Chris Lisi.

Two days after the exchange, the Nets offered any fan who put a paper bag on his head during a game against Sacramento a nylon Nets' bag containing a poster, a pack of player trading cards and a printed note from Yormark that said:

"Thanks for letting us see your face. We hope to see it more often at Nets' games."

Two people accepted the exchange offer, the Nets said.

White Sox spring included tweeting tussle



Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen sign autographs for fans before a spring training baseball game against the Oakland Athletics Tuesday, March 30, 2010 in Glendale, Ariz. AP



GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP)—Ozzie Guillen just had to point out

what a nice job his hair stylist did and how cool his new shades are. As news goes, that barely registered. The Chicago White Sox's manager is simply providing glimpses into his personal life through his Twitter account, and if his boss doesn't like it, well, Guillen's response can easily be summed up in 140 characters or less: Too bad.

He made it clear he's not about to stop posting despite some recent controversy over comments online. And one more thing: "I think the people from Twitter owe me money, I make them so famous."

For those who haven't been following, Guillen decided to start tweeting this spring and general manager Ken Williams didn't like it, the latest drama in the never-dull world of the White Sox.

Countless sports personalities and teams use sites such as Twitter and Facebook in an effort to connect with fans and, more and more frequently, break news without media interference.

The White Sox, in fact, have a Facebook page and three official Twitter accounts—one for releasing news and notes, a Spanish version and one offering their mascot's perspective.

Yet it was Guillen's decision to establish a Twitter account that sparked controversy, even though he insisted he wasn't about to offer any inside information about the team. Williams made

it clear at the time he wasn't thrilled with the idea of his outspoken manager using another platform, saying, "No comment ... and make sure you write that it is a no comment with a head shake from side to side."

What's transpired since then would be prime material for a reality TV show, which, by the way, the White Sox and MLB Network have in the works. The show, starring Guillen, Williams and chairman Jerry Reinsdorf, is expected to run on the network this summer.

The problem involved Guillen's middle son, Oney, a White Sox employee until recently. The front office nixed Guillen's plan to start a Web site that Oney was working on with him in which he would have offered insight on his moves as a manager.

Oney Guillen resigned from his job in the scouting department on March 19 after the organization took exception to some of his tweets, and Ozzie stormed out of the team's training complex without talking to reporters. The elder Guillen also posted in Spanish that the White Sox "touched me where it hurts me the most and I have to be ready for what comes, like I have always done."

The episode fueled speculation that there was mounting tension between Guillen and Williams, who often refer to themselves as brothers and at times fight like they are. But this time, family was involved.

It was Oney who tweeted when he resigned: "Remember this day march 19 2010. Mark my words. I hope the dorks aren't running the organization

Marlins acquire Robertson from Tigers

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—The Florida Marlins acquired left-hander Nate Robertson from the Detroit Tigers for left-hander Jay Voss on Tuesday.

The trade enables Robertson to start with the Marlins and assures left-hander Dontrelle Willis a spot in the Detroit rotation. Robertson started six games and also spent time in the bullpen for the Tigers last season, finishing 2-3 with a 5.44 ERA in 28 appearances.

Detroit manager Jim Leyland said Willis would take the No. 3 spot in the rotation. Leyland figured Robertson did not want to be a reliever with the Tigers.

"He probably would have not been a happy camper if it would have worked out that he was in the bull-

pen," Leyland said. "He's been nothing but a good soldier here over the years. We appreciate everything he's done for us. I think this is a great opportunity for him and it unclogs the issue for us a little bit."

Robertson joins a Florida rotation that includes right-handers Josh Johnson, Ricky Nolasco, Anibal Sanchez and Chris Volstad.

"He is a left-hander, which is something we didn't have in the rotation," Florida baseball operations president Larry Beinfest said. "And he brings experience, which is something we're light on also."

Right-hander Clay Hensley, who had been expected to join the Florida rotation after a strong spring, will instead likely pitch out of the bullpen.

or else we're (expletive). 3 geeks who never played baseball a day in there life telling experts what to do."

A day later, Ozzie Guillen said he had told Oney to resign, but the plot took another twist when his son went on the air against his father's wishes and indicated in radio interviews that White Sox management should have told him face to face to stop tweeting.

All this over a few words.

Major League Baseball urges players to treat online posts as interviews, to use good judgment, and can punish them for inappropriate comments, although no one has been punished to date.

"Players are reminded that they are representatives of their employer, that they have an association with the industry and must be mindful of that when communicating, as they would in a print, radio or TV interview," spokesman Pat Courtney wrote in an e-mail.

Each spring, MLB security discusses social media during meetings with each team, and the topic is part of the rookie development agenda. The league prohibits uniformed personnel along with clubhouse and equipment staff from using cell phones or personal devices on the bench or in the field during games and bans their use in the clubhouse

within 30 minutes of the first pitch.

Courtney said the league also tracks players' accounts and assists when fake ones pop up.

White Sox infielder Mark Teahen tweets from the perspective of Espy, his female boxer. And in her canine eyes, Joey Porter is a good fit for the Arizona Cardinals and men should not wear tattoos on their lower back.

Any controversial posts?

"I don't even toe the line," Teahen said. "I don't mess around with anything like that, but I think if you have some common sense about what not to write, you should be all right."

For Cubs pitcher Randy Wells, maintaining a Facebook page became such a headache that he's ready to shut his down. He had about 2,000 friends and only knew about 300, he saw pictures on his site wind up on other blogs, and he simply got tired of people asking why he walked Albert Pujols.

"I don't need that," he said. "I know I walked Pujols. I don't need you to tell me."

For Chicago Cubs manager Lou Piniella, all this was a little confusing. Last month, he asked a question that any twentysomething would find amusing: "What is Twitter?"

When told it was a site where users can opine in 140 characters or less, he responded: "Ozzie ... he needs more space than that."

Clubs also have their own rules for employees.

The Arizona Diamondbacks, for example, ban them from dispensing confidential information and from disparaging the organization, other franchises and the league along with any of their players, coaches or officials. Using Diamondbacks or D-backs in a username is forbidden, as is posting logos or photos without consent, and violations could ultimately result in an employee's firing.

"We all know the missteps that athletes have made; it really is something that you need to prepare for," Washington Nationals president Stan Kasten said.

Guillen, meanwhile, has been busily posting about his family, who had dinner with him, who cut his hair, a recent Blackhawks-Coyotes game he attended and whatever random thoughts pop into his head. Nothing about the inner workings of the team, though.

"That's my private life," he said. "As long as I respect this ballclub and respect my team, I respect the organization, I can do what I want."

Guillen said his relationship with his general manager is "fine."

"We've got a job to do," he said. "I think everything else has been blown out of proportion. I think that was something we wish did not happen, but in the meanwhile, me and Kenny have a job."

And he'll keep tweeting in his free time.

Source: Ryans stays with Texans



HOUSTON (AP)—Star middle linebacker DeMeco Ryans is staying in Houston.

A team official told The Associated Press on Tuesday night that Ryans has agreed to a six-year contract with the Texans. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has yet to make an official announcement.

Ryans was the 2006 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year and is the leader of a young Houston team that went 9-7 last

Steelers 'disappointed' with Holmes incident

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers president Art Rooney II said in a statement that the team is "disappointed" wide receiver Santonio Holmes is being accused in a lawsuit of assaulting a woman in an Orlando nightclub.

That incident followed another involving quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who became the subject of a police investigation after a 20-year-

old college student alleged he assaulted her in a Georgia nightclub.

Since 2006, Holmes has been charged with marijuana possession in Pittsburgh, domestic violence in Ohio and disorderly conduct in Florida. The marijuana and domestic violence charges were subsequently dropped and the disorderly conduct charge was dropped in exchange for a \$250 donation to a police officers trust fund.

season for its first winning record. He was a restricted free agent.

Ryans made the Pro Bowl last season, when he finished with 123 tackles and a sack. He has had at least 110 tackles in each of his four years in the NFL and posted a career-best 155 stops as a rookie.

The deal was first reported by the Houston Chronicle and Houston television station KRIV.

The move will keep together a defense that also includes 2006 top overall pick Mario Williams and 2009 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year Brian Cushing. Ryans' leadership was key in the development of

fellow linebacker Cushing, who led the Texans with 133 tackles.

A message was left by the AP seeking comment from Ryans. The 25-year-old Bessemer, Ala., native told The Houston Chronicle the new deal was "unbelievable" and he was "so appreciative."

Though the team hadn't officially announced the deal, Texans linebacker Zac Diles and left tackle Duane Brown took to Twitter to congratulate Ryans on the contract.

Ryans, a second-round pick from Alabama, has started each game in his career with the Texans and has 7 1/2 sacks, two interceptions and five forced fumbles as a pro.

Matansa gives back to GTC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Matansa Football Club aims to keep its home—the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Field—clean, donating 20 trashcans to GTC.

The official turnover ceremony was held last week and was witnessed by officials of the club, GTC vice principal Martin Dalsaso, GTC teachers and Matansa coaches Lindsay Davis and Tawny Barcinas, and several students and youth players.

“On behalf of the Matansa Football Club, we would like to turnover these trash cans to GTC as a form of gratitude for accepting the club, for giving as a home field,” Matansa president Jerry Tan said.

“This is just the start of the many assistance that we want to give to GTC. We will always look for ways to help the school in our own small way,” Tan added.

Dalsaso accepted the dona-

tion in absence of GTC principal Charlotte Camacho and said the donation will be very useful, especially now that the school has two new buildings.

“We would like to thank the Matansa Football Club for their donation. These (trashcans) saved us several hundreds of dollars. We can now put them in every corner of the school and encouraged our students and visitors to keep the school clean by throwing garbage to the trashcans nearest them,” Dalsaso said.

“We vowed to keep the school clean and safe not only for our students and visitors, but also for Matansa players and the club’s supporters,” the GTC vice principal added.

The trashcans were already turnover and were in used weeks before the ceremony. They are made from empty drums and painted yellow and green, reflecting Matansa Football Club’s colors. The club’s youth players took part in cleaning and painting of the drums.

“At Matansa, we do not



Matansa Football Club officials and students and representatives of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School pose for a group photo during the donation turnover ceremony at GTC last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

only encourage our players to be involved in sports, but also in community events and this [painting and cleaning of donated trash cans] is one of them,” Matansa general secretary Joven Cruz said.

“We will continue to be involved in community projects and urge our players, coaches, and supporters be part of it,” he added.

Tan is hoping that other football clubs will follow what Matansa has started, as having a sports club does not only mean being active and successful in sports, but also being part of a worthy cause, such as serving the community.

NMASA meeting set for tonight



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its monthly membership meeting starting at 7pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

NMASA president Michael White said aside from the usual election of the previous month’s top athletes and students athletes, the third installment of deposit (\$175) for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau is due today.

The 2010 Micro Games

is scheduled from Aug. 1 to 10, 2010 and aside from the CNMI, other Micronesian island-nations expected to participate in the seventh staging of the quadrennial meet are Guam, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.

They will compete in 15 disciplines, namely baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fast-pitch softball, table tennis,

weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

Like in previous monthly meetings, NMASA will also vote for the best athletes for last month (March) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student).

White also reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting. (*Saipan Tribune*)

MEET

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England, Germany, Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

Spain: Strong, but cautious

Having won the European championship and getting the No. 1 ranking in the FIFA world ranking in December 2009 for the second straight year makes the Vicente del Bosque-coached Spain among the favored squads in the 32-team field.

Spain also had an impressive record leading to the World Cup. In 41 matches since 2007, Spain won 36 games, drew four, and lost one. It shattered the international record for successive wins with 15 and tied Brazil’s record of 35 unbeaten matches before del Bosque’s strikers bowed to the Americans at the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009.

Despite having the numbers

on their side, del Bosque would want to downplay their chances in South Africa.

“Talk of winning the World Cup is premature, as we’ve never managed it before. I’m optimistic but also cautious. We have good players, a good team, but there are some very strong rivals,” del Bosque was quoted as saying in a news update at the FIFA web site.

Spain, which will be led by captain Iker Casillas, Alvaro Negredo, and David Villa, is seeded first in Group H, joining Switzerland, Honduras and Chile.

“People would make us group favorites but we have to go out and prove it on the pitch. Our past record doesn’t mean anything and we can’t take any of our opponents for granted. Chile is an awkward team with some very good players and they could do a lot of damage, as it finished only a point behind Brazil, which tells you something. Honduras also had an excellent qualification campaign and they’re a very technical side.

who caught up with the Koreans only when he was heading to Marpi.

JET coach Hyung Soo Jung said they were happy to make a good impression in Tagaman and drew praises from pro athletes like Gardner and Bucher.

“We wanted to go out here and be very competitive. It was a good race despite the very hot condition. Our triathletes were able to test their strength against

We know Switzerland a little better but I don’t think we should be either celebrating how the draw has turned out or getting worried. All we have to do is work and be absolutely ready for the first game,” del Bosque added.

Spain’s first game is against Switzerland on June 16, five days after the World Cup opening.

Italy: Ageing, but tested squad

At press time, Italy is ranked third in the UEFA rankings (as of March 19), behind England and Spain. The Italians are the defending champions, too making them one of the teams to watch in South Africa.

Italy is likely to bring to South Africa most of the players who helped the team win against France in Germany, 5-3. These include Fabio Cannavaro, Gianluca Zambrotta, Gianluigi Buffon, and Andrea Pirlo, who are all in their 30s and critics say Italy’s ageing roster would be a bane in the World Cup dominated by young and fast players.

some of the best pros in the world,” said Jung through an interpreter, adding they joined Tagaman to prepare for more races back home.

JET is based in Deajeon, a metropolitan city in the center of South Korea and is the fifth largest city of the country.

Other JET members who joined Tagaman were Hee Jun Kim, Jang Mi Park, Hye Min Kim, and Jo Yeon Kim. Park finished

Italy coach Marcello Lippi thinks otherwise.

“If I had to play a whole season with this team, I’d probably make other choices,” Lippi was quoted as saying in a news posted at the FIFA website. “But for one month, it’s not a problem. The quality of a player is not just about age or technique, there’s also enthusiasm, experience, charisma, wisdom, familiarity with international matches. It’s about one month and six or seven matches. We don’t necessarily need players aged 24.”

Two months before the World Cup, Lippi has yet to name his 23-man roster. He had already players in mind and is looking for only six, but the infamous 19-year-old Inter Milan striker Mario Balotelli is not among the remaining choices.

“Balotelli has great qualities and I’m sure that once he’s finished maturing at Inter there’s no doubt his qualities will be useful to the national side,” said Lippi, who is looking to duplicate the feat of Vittorio Pozzo. Pozzo led Italy to

ished eighth in the women’s division and 22nd overall among 85 finishers and Hye Min Kim was 10th in the women’s and 28th overall.

“We hope to be back next year and bring more triathletes. It was an honor competing against past champions and frequent participants of Tagaman. The field was very competitive and we’re looking for more challenges next year,” Jung said.

creased the lead in the succeeding innings, as the only time the Fielders scored again was at the top of the fifth with Giovanni Ayuyu reaching home plate on a Juan Maratita fly-ball triple to center field.

The 2010 SML will take a break tomorrow and will return to action on Monday night.

back-to-back World Cup championships in 1934 and 1938.

Italy is the second most successful team in the World Cup next to Brazil. Besides their back-to-back wins in the 1930s, the Italians also hoisted the Cup in 1982. The 2006 champion is drawn with Paraguay, New Zea-

land, and Slovakia in Group F. Italy will begin its title defense against Paraguay on June 14.

Besides Italy and Spain, England and Germany are the two other Euro teams favored in the World Cup. The previews on the Brits and Germans will be published next week.

YANAI

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Toda was in the youngest age group (nine years old) and logged 1:30.90 (34th out of 80 participants) in the 100m IM and 47.81 seconds (44th out of 108 swimmers) in the 50m breaststroke.

The meet was held on March 20 and 21 and drew 3,382 swimmers from various swim clubs in Japan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	47	26	.644	—
Toronto	36	37	.493	11
New York	26	47	.356	21
Philadelphia	26	48	.351	21 1/2
New Jersey	10	64	.135	37 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	52	22	.703	—
x-Atlanta	47	26	.644	4 1/2
Miami	40	34	.541	12
Charlotte	38	35	.521	13 1/2
Washington	21	52	.288	30 1/2

Central Division

y-Cleveland	58	16	.784	—
Milwaukee	41	32	.562	16 1/2
Chicago	35	39	.473	23
Indiana	28	47	.373	30 1/2
Detroit	23	50	.315	34 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-Dallas	49	25	.662	—
San Antonio	44	29	.603	4 1/2
Memphis	38	35	.521	10 1/2
Houston	37	36	.507	11 1/2
New Orleans	35	40	.467	14 1/2

Northwest Division

x-Utah	49	26	.653	—
x-Denver	48	27	.640	1
Oklahoma City	45	28	.616	3
Portland	45	29	.608	3 1/2
Minnesota	14	60	.189	34 1/2

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	54	20	.730	—
x-Phoenix	48	26	.649	6
L.A. Clippers	27	47	.365	27
Sacramento	24	51	.320	30 1/2
Golden State	21	52	.288	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday’s Games

Indiana 102, Sacramento 95
Oklahoma City 111, Philadelphia 93
Phoenix 111, Chicago 105
Milwaukee 107, L.A. Clippers 89
Houston 98, Washington 94

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SML Standings

Rangers	5	0
Brewers	2	2
Fielders	2	3
Falcons	2	2
D9ers	0	4

FEISTY

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Byung Eun Jeon landing in fourth place and Yun Ho Seo finishing sixth.

“The Koreans are very good swimmers. They are strong in the bike leg too and I really had to push myself in the bike race to eat up some time I lost in the swim leg,” said Gardner,

RANGERS

From Page 28

the top of the eighth inning and the former made three strikeouts, walked one, allowed three hits, and gave up no runs.

On offense, Shane Yamada, left fielder Tyrone Omar, and cen-

ter fielder Jesus Iguel scored two runs each and the Rangers tallied seven earned runs and made three off the Fielders’ errors.

Neither team scored in the first inning before a Jay Camacho double on a line drive to left field at the top of the second brought Ryan Ada home and put the Fielders in the lead for the

first and last time, 1-0.

At the bottom of the second inning, Rangers designated hitter Hector Efraim made a double on a grounder to right field and drove Yamada home to tie the game. The Rangers then broke the deadlock after scoring two runs off the Fielders miscues.

The defending champions in-

2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The MISO Girls All-Stars pose with their championship trophy after beating Settsu, 75-54, in the girls U15 finals of the 2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The MISO Boys All-Stars flash the No. 1 sign after beating the COPSSA All-Stars in the boys U17 finals, 77-74.



The Settsu Red Impulse U15 team and their coaching staff won the runner-up trophy.



Girls U15 third placers Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus pose for a group photo.



Mt. Carmel School's Rommel Calcena, center, representing the COPPSA All-Stars, receives the fourth place trophy from BANMI's Abner Venus. Also in the photo is Settsu's Susumu Sakaguchi.



Saipan Southern High School with their third place trophy.



Southern's Tristan Ecalnea, third left, and Mt. Carmel's Sean Sablan, second right, were chosen as top players in the tournament, joining Kagman High School's Juan Maratita, not in the photo.



MHS' Lia Rangamar, third right, and Kagman's Nikita Hofschneider, second right, were named top players in the women's division and won gym bags donated by Settsu.



Participants in the 2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament pose for a group photo.



Kagman and Settsu cagebells pose for a group photo after their game.



Nash helps
Suns clinch
playoff spot

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Saipan Tribune Sports



28 THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yanai wins gold in Japan Sprint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kaito Yanai had a rousing debut in the 2010 Tokyo Junior Sprint Championships, winning a gold medal in the meet held late last month at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium.

The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmer topped the boys' 100m individual medley after clocking in at one minute and 15.56 seconds and



besting seven other finalists. Yanai's time in the finals was more than two seconds faster than his qualifying time of 1:18.12. He had the fifth best time in the preliminary race that featured 72 swimmers.

The 10-year-old also competed in the 50m breaststroke event in his age group and made the finals, too. Yanai posted 39.67 seconds in the preliminary race for the eighth best time among 87 participants. He fell a step short of going up to the medal podium again when he finished only fourth in the finals even with a faster time of 38.78 seconds.



Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai at the medal podium to receive his gold medal in the 100m individual medley race in the 2010 Tokyo Junior Sprint Championships, last month at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium.

"Kaito did an excellent job, as his times in the two finals were better than his preliminary times," said Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who accompanied Yanai and four others to the meet.

Joining the 100m IM gold medalists were returnee Kensuke Kimura, Angel De Jesus, Angel Marie Tan, and Ryosei Toda.

Kensuke Kimura was entered in the boys' 13 100m IM and almost made it to the finals. He clocked in at 1:07.81 for ninth place out of 51 participants. Only the Top 8 advanced to the finals and Kensuke Kimura's time was 0.43 of a second behind the eighth finisher. In the 50m backstroke swim, Kensuke Kimura submitted 33.01 seconds for the 15th best time among 49 swimmers.

Tan and De Jesus also swam in two events in the same age group (11 years old). Tan posted 1:23.94 in the girls 11 100m IM (36th best out of 57 swimmers) and 42.60 seconds in the 50m breaststroke (35th out of 76 participants). De Jesus timed in at 1:31.35 (52nd) in the 100m IM and 40.79 seconds in the 50m butterfly (73rd out of 88 swimmers).

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Meet the World Cup favorites

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Editor's note: Last week, the Saipan Tribune started the 2010 World Cup primer with a peek at the United States National Team. This week, it will be the turn of two of Europe's four heavyweights—Spain and Italy.

The Union of European Football Associations has 13 entries to the South Africa-hosted World Cup.

The list includes No. 1 Spain, defending champion Italy,

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Spain captain Iker Casillas, left, and Italy's Fabio Cannavaro will be one of the players to watch in the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.



Feisty Koreans make Tagaman grade



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of JET pose for a group photo after the awards ceremony for the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon last month at the Pacific Islands Club.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

"You should have seen how these Koreans swim fast, fly in the bike, and run with still a lot of energy," Bucher said after finishing only third behind Hong.

Most of triathlon fans on Saipan were expecting Bucher to cross the finish line at the American Memorial Park first again, as the Swiss had already won XTERRA Saipan. However, a new face emerged at the finish line in Hong, who was bout four minutes ahead of Bucher.

Hong was joined by teammate Won Jeong Choi in the Top 6 in the women's pro division. The group also include Vanlandingham (second), Carey (fourth), and United Kingdom's Emma Ruth Smith.

In the men's pro division, JET had two bets making it to the Top 6 with

See FEISTY on Page 26

Rangers cruise to fifth straight victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Major League with a 10-2 win

The St. Michael Rangers picked up where they left off, starting the second round of the 2010

over the Fielders on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The defending champions swept the first round of the three-round regular season and nailed their fifth win in a row after downing the Fielders in eighth and a half innings. With their 5-0 record, the Rangers are now three games ahead of the Brewers (2-2), Fielders (2-3), and Falcons (2-2). Com-

pleting the standings are the D-9ers, who failed to win a single game in the first round.

Kelvin Kapileo pitched for the Rangers in the first seven innings and recorded eight strikeouts. He allowed only five hits, walked two, and gave up only two runs.

Franco Flores replaced Kapileo at

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